

exclus AVANER STUSER

Atari Joystick

This is an unbeatable offer for all gamers – an Atari joystick for just £2.99.

It's ideal for anyone, but especially for those who would like a second stick ready as a spare for visiting friends. With easy access Fire buttons on both sides of its small case. this model is suitable for left and righthanded

comfortably into the hand.

ONLY £2.99

players and

Atari Robotics

Control battery-operated robots such as Lego from your ST with this powerful and easy-to-use package. It contains an interface card and software, both designed for use by people without electronics experience.

The manual takes users from the basics through to building sophisticated models, with the help of clear diagrams and examples.



Trackball

Ever fancied a mouse alternative,

but been put off by poor trackball designs? Well. we've found the answer – the Leaend Ball.

This 320 dots per inch trackball has been ergonomically built, putting all controls within easy reach of uour fingers and featuring a smooth platform on which to rest your palm.

While the mouse pointer is controlled by your thumb, item selection can be made easily without removing uour hand from the 74.99 device.

GREAT

External drive

An external floppy drive which plugs straight into the back of the ST can benefit every type of user - from games player to publisher.

Disk copuing is faster and easier once a drive has been fitted, and there's no need for inconvenient disk swapping when using powerful software.

The advantages of owning a second drive – and what better way is there of expanding your system than choosing this bargain-priced but ONLY high quality device? £57.99

Mouse

This high resolution replacement for the chunky and sluggish Atari mouse is perfect for use alongside all your leisure and business applications.

Switchable between ST and Amiga use, the stylish Eklipse model features micro-switch technology to give smooth operation, easu use and ONLY durability. £9.99

Memory

With more and more memoryhungry programs being launched for Atari computers, there's never been a better time to upgrade yours.

Extra memory will enable you to play the most exciting simulation games, use powerful graphics drawing programs or even design colourful pages with the latest publishing software.

We've put together options for all types of Atari enthusiast – and with the STFM boards you'll be able to extend the memory up to 4Mb of memory at a later date.

They're all at really competitive prices, with a service available for buyers who don't feel FROM confident to fit the £8.99 upgrade themselves.

512k STE	£8.99
STE to 2Mb	
STE to 4Mb	
512k STFM	
STFM 2Mb	
5TFM 4Mb	z.129.99

ively presents

saving ways to stretch your ST's limits...

Midi Studio Master

This Midi sequencer - which previously sold for £99 enables you to turn your ST into a fullyfledged music controller.



With this software and compatible synthesiser keyboard you can write, store and playback stunning compositions just like the professionals.

Its features include 100 track storage, 240 PPQ resolution, Midi standard file compatible, realtime mix-down via mouse, realtime scrolling arrange ONLY window and pipeline £9.99 module system.

TOS upgrade

Give your ST the extra features and improvements of the latest operating system but keep compatibility with all your existing programs.

With TOS 2.06 you'll be give your computer a brilliant new look, and have the ability to put frequently used folders and files onto the desktop for easy access.

Extra icons are available for folders and hard drives, keyboard shortcuts make control easier, the desktop's colour can be changed and GEM programs set to run automatically.

Its support for high density floppy drives is just another reason why this bargain upgrade is right for you. A fitting service is available.



Fitting and return delivery

We realise that many ST owners would love the power offered by extra memory or the latest operating system but are put off by the prospect of fiddling about inside the computer.
This is why we've teamed up with a leading

be able to fit memory and TOS upgrades, and even arrange for your machine to be sent

If you choose this service please don't send you computer just yet – once we've received your order an Upgrade Centre representative will arrange a convenient appointment time.

Internal Drive

Imagine the advantages of upgrading a singlesided floopu disk drive to a double-sided version.



If you're still using the old style single-sided drive, then you'll have already found that most of the latest software doesn't work with uour ST. Replace it with this internal model and you'll be able to run all programs, including your existing collection, and have double the storage capacity on every disk.

The drive is easy to fit but because official Atari drives are no longer available, some small alterations will be needed to the ST's case. 39.99

UPGRADES ORDER FORM			
	ner enrw	FG NR	IIPGRAN

Fill in this form and send it to Upgrade Centre, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP

- ☐ 512k STE upgrade.....£8.99
- STE memory to 2Mb£49.99
- STE memory to 4Mb£99.99 512k STFM upgrade£29.99
- STFM 2Mb£74.99
- Internal floppy.....£39.99
- STFM 4Mb£129.99
- External floppy£57.99
- Midi Studio Master....£9.99 Jovstick.....£2.99
- TOS 2.06 (STE)£59.99 TOS 2.06 (STFM)£59.99
- Fitting and return delivery£19.99

Please add £1 per item for postage and packing within mainland UK - for overseas telephone the Upgrade Centre on +44 772 203166. All products only available while stocks last

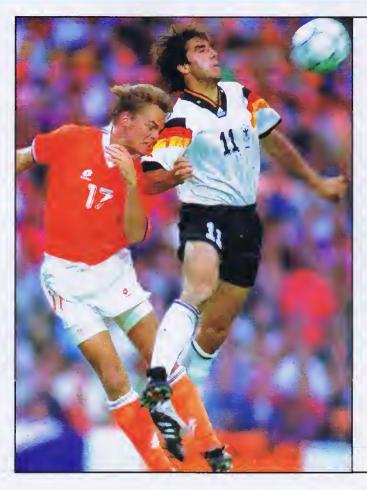
- Cheque/postal order payable to Europress Enterprise Ltd
- Credit Card No

......Daytime phone

Please do not send your ST to the above address. The Upgrade Centre will contact customers requesting the titting service with tutl address and booking detaits.

Tick this box if you do not wish to receive promotional material from other companies

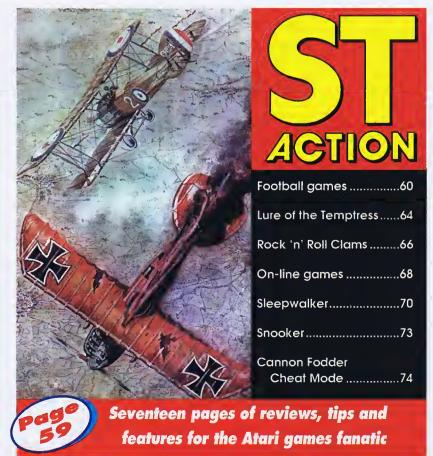
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Upgrade Service

Fifteen £££-saving ways to improve your ST's memory, power and ease of use

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CoverDis



On this month's CoverDisk we have a fully usable word processor called Marcel, complete with spelling checker

PLUS:

- Gamers will find three fun and addictive programs -WingLord, Painter and Termodroid
- The BBS Directory will help you find your local bulletin board
- Discover which programs are slowing down your multi-tasking computer with Speed 'o' Meter

The DISK starts on page 12





33 Ormskirk Rd. Preston, Lancs, PR1 2QP

Ladbroke Computing

the longest established home computer dealers in the U.K. We have developed an extensive customer service policy which involves testing of all hardware prior to despatch to ensure that goods arrive in working order, offering free advice and support over the phone and keeping customers informed. Although our prices are not always the cheapest we do endeavour to offer consistently good service and backup.

All prices are correct at copy date 19/5/94 (while stocks last), and are subject to change without prior notice. All prices include VAT but exclude delivery.

You can order by mail Cheques/Postal Orders made payable to Ladbroke Computing. Or give your credit card details over the phone.

Postal delivery is available on small items under £40 (Normally £3, phone for details). Add £7 for couner delivery. Next working day delivery on mainland UK subject to stock (£20 for Saturday delivery).

> Open Mon-Sat 9.30am to 5.00pm. Ladbroke Computing Ltd trading as Ladbroke Computing International.

Fax: (0772) 561071 Tel: 9.00am-5.30pm (5 Lines)





Star SJ144 £369.99 The Star SJ144 is a Colour/Mono thermal wax transfer printer which gives glossy colour output on

normal paper. 360 dpi resolution

 Emulates Epson LQ 860, IBM Proprinter & NEC graphics

O la l	
Star LC100 Colour	£119.99
Star LC24/30 Colour	£209.99
Starjet SJ48 Bubblejet	£210
SJ48 Ink Cartridge	£19

Citizen

Citizen ABC 24pin Colour £179.99 Citizen Swift 240 Colour

Harrist Dankand

newiell Packard	
HP Deskjet 310	£239
HP Deskjet 520	£279.99
HP Deskjet portable	£199
HP Deskjet 550 Colour	£429.99
Hp DJ500 Colour ink cart	£26

I acore

Ricoh LP1200	£599
Panasonic KX-P4400 Las	er£499.99
Seikosha OP104	£479.99
New Star Laser (phone	
for details)	£459.99

Add £3 for cable. Add £7 for delivery

Data Pulse Plus

y quiet, no fan nece - Dual SCSI port - Internal Power Supply Device Number Selector - 2Mb PD software free Free HD Turbokit

The Data Pulse Plus range of drives features a full metal case with integral PSU ideal as a monitor stand.

All Data Pulse Plus Drives now come configured with industry standard 50 way SCSI Centronics sockets which allows connection of the ICD LINK (no clock) for use on the ST or a SCSI II cable for use on the Falcon etc.

To ensure the highest possible

Dataview Mono ST £109.99

Quality Mono monitor with Sound * Limited Offer

The Dataview Monochrome monitor

comes complete with our custom designed adaptor. The adaptor incorporates a small beeper and

also a 2.5mm output for better sound reproduction. The monitor/ adaptor combination is fully compatible with all ST high resolution programmes and includes a tilt/swivel stand.

Multisync Monitor
Microvitec 1438 £289

Falcon VGA adaptor £9.99
The Microvitec 1438 is a multisync monitor compatible with both the

Monitor compatible with both the Atari ST and the Falcon. Utilising the ST switch box it is possible to display all three ST resolutions on the same monitor. Also compatible with screen blaster for the FALCON. Dataview .31 SVGA Power Management \$199.99

Management £199.99
This high quality SVGA monitor has power management features which turn the screen off if no data is

turn the screen off if no data is received for a certain period of time, re-activating it when data changes. Includes Falcon adaptor.

Dataview .28 SVGA £239.99

This high quality SVGA colour monitor comes complete with Falcon adaptor. The .28 dot pitch gives the highest quality picture (Falcon will only display 256 colours in high resolutions)

Scart TV (Requires SCART Lead)

The Samsung C13352X is a 14" SCART input TV with remote control

Modems

2400 baud pocket modem, MNP 2-4 error correction, MNP5 data compression

14400 Baud Modem, Auto Dial, Auto

answer, Lifetime limited warranty, MNP 2-4 error correction, MNP 5 data 2-4 error correction, MNP 5 data compression, S/R Class 1 & Class 2 commands, Group 3 S/R fax modem (compatible with Straight FAX™)

With reduced call rates there's never

been a better time to invest in

in high resolutions). ST-SVGA adaptor Falcon-Composite

SCART STFM cable

Samsung Cl3351X

2400 Baud Voyager

14400 Baud Pegasus

Fax Modem

Communications"

and on-screen displays.

Falcon Scart
Falcon-ST Mon adaptor
SCART STE cable

£289.99

£19.99

£19.99

£9.99

£9.99

£9.99

£169.99

£69.99

Monitors,

Screen Beat Speakers

ST Switch Box

Falcon 030

16MHz 32 bit 68030 Central Processor, 16MHz Blitter, 32MHz 56001 Digital Signal Processor

reliability, the drives are tested at

every stage of assembly by skilled

you first boot up your hard drive you

will find a wealth of Public Domain

Utilities which have been selected by

12 months warranty and free phone

advice and support by genuine Data

these Autoparking Autobooting

mechanisms means that they can

operate well within their safe

operational temperature ranges

without the need for fan cooling. This

coupled with the design of the case

results in probably the quietest Hard

staggering density with hard drive

speed. Each 3.5" optical disk stores

Re-Writeable Optical drives offer

Drive range available for the ST.

All Data Pulse Plus Drives include

The low power consumption of

All drives are ready to 'Plug in and Go' when you receive them. When

technicians.

our support staff.

Pulse Plus users.

1.44Mb 3.5" Floppy, up to 14Mb RAM. Displays 65536 colours from 262144 palette at 768 x 480 resolution

8 Channel 16 bit, high quality. Stereo

Sound Sampling	
FALCON 1Mb RAM No HD	£499
FALCON 4Mb No HD	£699
FALCON 4Mb 64Mb HD	£799
FALCON 4Mb 127Mb HD	£899
FALCON 4Mb 209Mb HD	£999
	_

Legend Trakball

Ergonomically designed Trak Ball. 320Dpi resolution, 2 microswitched buttons. The Legend Trak Ball is very easy to use. Unlike normal Trak balls the LEGEND is operated with the thumb freeing the fingers to click buttons ONLY £29.99

External Drive

Zydec 3.5" External Floppy drive. Includes own external power supply.

£59.99



High quality 300 dpi mouse with microswitched buttons ST/AM.

£11.99 Marpet Upgrades

Marpet upgrades for the ST are "plug in" and require no soldering. They are and require no soldering. They are compatible with most motherboard layouts and come with full fitting instructions. These boards accept SIMM boards and are upgradeable at a later date. Please check that MMU and Shifter are "socketed" before ordering.

Unpopulated Marpet Board

See SIMM prices below

Forget Me Clock II

\$13.99

Forget Me Clock II 512K SIMM'S £13.99 £7.99 £54.99 2MB SIMM'S 4MB SIMM'S £109.99

Midistudio Master

240 PPQ Midi Standard file format compatible. 100 tracks. Phrase arrangement. Very easy to use.

£9.99

"Data Pulse is astonishingly fast"-Andrew Wright, ST User

128Mb with access time of 30ms and a data transfer rate of 600K per second.

Data Pulse +170Mb D/P +128Mb Optical **CD ROM Drive**

Phone for further details on CD ROM

£270

£670

£180

Please note all prices quoted are for main drive unit only. Add ICD LINK for use with ST or SCSI cable for use with FALCON

ICD LINK (ST) £79 99 SCSI Cable (Falcon) £39.99 128Mb Optical disk £29 99 **ICD PRO Utilities** £39.99

Atari STE Packs

1040STE Curriculum £199.99 2Mb 1040STE £254.99 4Mb 1040STE £309.99



Jaguar with Cybermorph £249.99 Phone for games cartridges

Repair Services The Only ATARI

Authorised Repair Centre in the UK

Our Atari trained technicians can repair ST's at competitive rates. We can arrange for fully insured, courier pickup and return delivery of your machine to ensure its safety. We even have a same day sérvice which will ensure your machine is given priority and subject to fault, completed the same day.

We offer a Quotation service for £15 for which we will examine your machine and report back with an exact price for repair. If you do not wish to go ahead with the repairs then just pay the £15. However if you do go ahead then the charge is included in the minimum charge.

Please note: The minimum charge covers labour, any extra parts are chargeable.

Minimum repair charge £35.25 Same day service £15.00 STFM(E) PSU £34.99 1Mb internal drive £39.99 TOS 2.06 + Switch STFM £65.00 Courier Pickup £11.00 Courier Return £7.00

PC Emulators

Check configuration before orderina

PC Speed STFM or STE (XT) £49.99 AT Speed STFM (8MHz) £139.99

Jaguar games for PC owners

CARDS incorporating Jaguar technology will soon enable owners of PC-compatible computers to play games developed for the revolutionary 64-bit console.

Atari's deal with Sigma Designs is expected to allow more than ten million PC users to play Jaguar games on their machines before Christmas.

The move could make the laguar a more secure platform for some software developers who have been reluctant to back the machine until they see evidence of a large user base.

"Atari will once again jump ahead of the market by bringing the world's most advanced game technology to a new group of consumers in record time," said company president Sam Tramiel.

"Knowing there would be great demand for laguar on personal computers, we designed the system to talk easily to the leading computer architectures.'

A Sigma spokesman enthused: "By combining our MPEG technology with Atari's 3D animation, we look forward to bringing the hottest video game technology and software titles to the desktops of users worldwide."

 As we closed for press, Silica Systems (081-309 IIII) announced the availability of Jaguars which had been air freighted into the country.

by John Butters



PC: Cards will enable owners to play Jaguar games

Spokesman Mark Blackham said the extra shipping costs meant they would sell for £249, but later this year the price is likely to fall back to the recommended £229.

Crime unit hunts software thieves

A CRIME unit has just been set up by the computer and video games trade body ELSPA to protect Britain's £960 million electronic entertainment industry from software pirates. Its activities used to be carried out by the Federation

Against Software Theft and the new unit will work with police and Trading Standards officials to recover pirated programs.

It is headed by John Loader, who in the last 18 months at FAST helped discover more than £500,000 in illegal software and prosecuted several offenders.

Loader says the unit is mainly involved in investigating illegal copying but will also tell authorities of the existence of pornographic and obscene images.

Electronic bulletin boards are often used not only to pirate software but also to access illegal pornographic material," Loader claimed.

"As such, the Crime Unit has an important role to play in restricting the flow of obscene materials and, when found, turning them over to the relevant authorities."

The unit's current focus is on pirated compact disc software and illegal bulletin boards and can be phoned on 0386 830642.

Art duo head for Atari

ARTISTS will soon be able to choose from two new packages for use with Atari computers - EZ-Art Professional on the ST and Rainbow for the Falcon.

EZ-Art Professional is claimed to work on all machines in the ST range. It is icon driven and includes a built-in help feature to guide newcomers around the

If used on an STE, the program supports the computer's 4,096 colour palette and it can convert between standard Atari, EZ-Art Professional modes and custom-written

There is separate control for brightness so that a colour tone can be made lighter or darker without the user having to adjust RGB sliders.

More than 20 types of shape can be created, ranging from boxes and circles to arcs, discs and shaded polygons, and there is a good range of effects.

These include resize, scale, remap, rotate, skew, shatter, soften, pixelate and outline.

Up to 10 workscreens are available and there are almost 20 drawing tools and modes to choose from. It costs £29.95 from Floppyshop (0224 312756).

Rainbow is ICA Europe's (0734 452416) addition to the growing range of Falcon art

lt's claimed to be the only Falcon art package which enables the resolution, monitor type, vertical frequency and overscan to be changed from within the program without loss of work.

Its colour palette can be changed with a mouse click and the user interface rearranged completely.

There is a built-in photo studio, and a bunch of extra built-in studios are promised for the next version.

Eight tools are available, each with an individual set of modes and effects. The price is £29.95.



EZ-Art Professional: One of two new art programs for Atari computer

News briefs

Helping hand

KOBOLD is a new high speed file copier billed by distributor System Solutions (081-693 3355) as a helping hand for any task relating to mass storage.

Installed as an accessory or used while the computer is multi-tasking, the program can be called on the fly to format a floppy disk in any formats.

A number of files and folders can be quickly deleted, renamed or manipulated and a script language enables automation of routine tasks. Price, £59.95.



PD packed on CD

TWO CD-ROM discs, each containing hundreds of public domain and shareware files for use with Atari computers, have been added to System Solutions' (081-693 1919) range of products.

Put together by Bernd Lohrum, the discs include a variety of games, utilities, demos and image files from around the world and cost £29.95 each.



First go online

LEEDS-based dealer First Computer Centre have launched a bulletin board for their customers. It will provide technical support, details of the firm's product range and news.

Public domain, shareware and driver programs will be available for downloading. Modem users should dial 0532 637988 and those wanting to talk to the firm can telephone 0532 319444.



Cheaper comms

US ROBOTICS (0753 811180) have cut the price of their Sportster 14,400 fax modem from £299 to £199 in a bid to increase their market share for high speed modems.

"The price is low enough to make people think twice before they buy an illegal unapproved modem," said the firm's marketing manager Lucy Brown.



Faster CompuServe

ONLINE information system CompuServe have added 14,400 bits per second access for UK members, increasing their access speed by 50 per cent. The connect charge is about £6.40 per hour.



Swapped shots

SCREEN Shots showing the performance of NVDI and T28 in cache mode were accidentally transposed in last month's 'Full speed ahead' feature.

The T28 in cache mode gives an average increase in speed of 174 per cent and NVDI combined with the T28 gives a speed boost of 801 per cent. Apologies to System Solutions and our readers.

High Street help for Atari novices

SILICA Systems hope to bring an end to criticisms that High Street retailers do not sufficiently cater for computer novices.

The dealer have joined forces with Debenhams to open a chain of 20 computer shopping areas across Britain. The stores cater for all types of shopper from beginner to expert and feature dedicated areas where customers can get buying advice and technical help.

Specially designed areas also allow customers to try out the latest games, productivity software and hardware - including a large range of Atari products.

Ten stores are already open: Bristol, Glasgow, London's Oxford Street, Manchester and Sheffield and others will open within the next few months.

"We have placed special emphasis on enlarging the market by introducing new people to home computing," commented Silica's retail controller Ken Browning."By taking our reputation for service and after-sale support to the High Street, we are aiming to become the consumer's primary focus point for the complete computing package."

A Debenhams spokesperson added: "Computers are rapidly becoming an accepted part of the home, so it was logical to include them in Debenhams and to have Silica establish the outlets.

"Silica were chosen as it was crucial that the outlets could cater for our broad range of existing customers - many of whom will be new to computers - as well as attracting new customers." Silica can be telephoned on 081-309-1111

Star send printer prices tumbling

PRINTER manufacturer Star have announced price cuts across their range of dot-matrix, laser and colour thermal models.

The move brings the recommended retail prices of many machines down by £50, and other printers see their prices tumble by as much as

Star's marketing manager Annette Tarlton said: "These aggressive prices emphasise further Star's long standing reputation for value-for-money printers."



Printers: Star models see prices slashed

Music magic at MEMS

MANY instruments and software packages debuted at the Frankfurt Music Fair came to Britain recently for this year's Midi and Electronic Music Show.

Harman Audio (081-207 5050) showed a 16-track version of Cubase Audio for the Falcon. The demos were so popular the crowds were backed up right to the walls.

Digital Village (081-440 34440) promoted the SPEdit DAT editor for the Falcon and demonstrated Falcon d-t-d systems. Atari Workshop aka System Solutions (081-693 1919) were selling full Falcon/Cubase Audio systems for £1,399, complete with PowerUp 2, a 32MHz

The company also had CD-ROM kits for the Falcon based on Apple's twin-speed CD300 for £259 and an ST version for £299. There were actually several ST CD-ROM discs too. HiSoft/AVR (0525 718181)) were showing Clarity Falcon sampling/digital recording system which includes drum machine and keyboard emulation software:

Heavenly Music (0255 434217) showed their range of building block disks such as Dr Beat, Rave, Jazz and Techno grooves plus the new Bytes & Pieces.

A new company to the market, Keyfax Software (0491 579645), demonstrated a similar idea called Twiddly Bits, created by world famous musicians.

Hands On (0705 783100) offered song files at £4 each and showed new Rockbeat, Groove Machine and Karaoke titles. Newtronic (081-691 1087) were also playing a selection from the company's vast range of Midi files, including Doop. They also showed Session Partner Pro, a sophisticated accompaniment generator which supports 13 instruments. Drumatix is a new groove designer for drum tracks.

Software Technology (née Gajits) demonstrated the Breakthru 2 sequencer and the latest additions to the PatchKing Editor range which now includes the Yamaha SY35.

As usual, there were hardware and software bargains from ABC Music and BEM and the opportunity to attend free seminars given by various industry luminaries. Interesting exhibits included the MOCLI (Midi Operated Glove Interface) at £345 from FAME (081-889 0616) which proves that gestures speak

The MEMS has built on its success over the past few years and already over 50 per cent of exhibitors have booked again for next year's event.







9.99



7.99

ATARI ST EDUCATIONAL

BOOKS

MICRO GERMAN
(BEGINNER TO GCSE AND BUSINESS
LEVEL. CONFORMS TO NATIONAL
CURRICULUM)



9.99



ISHAR 2

7.99

SENSIBLE SOCCER CHAOS STRIKES BACK S.O. MONKEY ISLAND 13.99 3.99

IMPORTANT PLEASE NO i MEG = requires at least 1 meg RAM D/S = requires double sided disk drive

A'	TAF	RIST	GA	MES

ATARI ST GAMES
A320 AIRBUS (USA) D'S (1 MEG) 23 49 ADDAMS FAMILY (1 MEG) 8,99 AIR BUCKS D'S (1 MEG) 20,49 ANDTHER WORLD 11,49 BATCHEO FROM SPOOL D'S 11,49 B17 FLYING FORTIRESS D'S (1 MEG) 24,49 ANDTHEO FORTIAN D'S 11,49 CADAVER 11,49 CAMPAIGN D'S (1 MEG) 24,49 CANNON FODDER D'S 22,49 CANNON FODDER D'S 22,49
CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGER 9394 9.99 CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGER 9394 6.99 CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGER 9394 6.99 CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGER 9394 11.49 CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGER COLLECTION 9394 4 JOSEPH 19395 11.49
CHADS ENGINE D/S (1 MEG) 15.49 CHAOS STRIKES BACK 3.99 CIVILISATION D/S (1 MEG) 24.49 CORRUPTION (M/SCRDLLS) 7.49 CRUISE FOR A CORPSE (1 MEG) 11.49 DOGFIGHT (1 MEG) 24.49
DREAMLANDS (TRANSARCTICA, STDRM MASTER, ISHAR) (1 MEG)
DUNGEON MASTER & CHAOS STRIKES BACK
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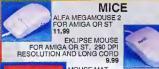
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n the absence of the legendary Atari Dusseldorf show, the third party in Germany has taken over with a number of smaller shows. These so-called "parties" usually take place at a shop with participation from Atari companies from the surrounding area. But the real successors to the Dusseldorf show are proTOS and FEZ-a-

ProTOS, held in Ulm, southern Germany, was supposed to be called Atari Show but Atari objected to this, so the name was changed.

However, an official Atari representative has expressed satisfaction with proTOS' organisation and the professionalism of exhibitors. Furthermore, the possibility of Atari's participation in the future was also left open.

The show occupied one exhibition hall almost the size of a football field. Friday was trade-only day with enthusiasts attending the remaining two days.

There were about 3S companies and visitor attendance at the two open days was very high, with Saturday exceeding all expectations. The companies by and large expressed surprise and satisfaction at how well the show went.

Jobis showed the newest version of their Falcon tower including a 270Mb Syquest removable hard drive. The company buy Falcons, then take them apart and rebuild them in an attractive custom tower case with numerous improvements including a new power supply. The customer has a choice of



Jobis tower for the Falcon including 270Mb Syquest drive







options and the price varies accordingly. The basic rebuilt Falcon accelerated to 32MHz and with a detachable TT keyboard costs DM3,498 (about £1,400). Jobis are at Samerhof, 83224 Grassau, Germany.

Pam Software made their name with the PamNet network. New at the show was FlexLink - also available as a card for the Jobis Falcon tower mentioned above.

This is an Ethernet adapter that plugs into TT/Falcon's SCSI port. It's also available for the Mac and the PC making it easy to build heterogenous networks. Both BNC coaxial and twisted pair connections are included supporting IEEE 802.3 standard running at 10Mb.

The cost, including software, is DM918.8S (about £370). Pam also supplies various client/server software such as TCP/IP for DM300.61 (about £120) and X-Window server at DM793.S0 (about £320) to name a couple.

Pam also showed VGR-I and VGR-2 video grabbers which plug into the parallel

port. Together with the software, the price around DMI,000 mark (about £400). Pam Software are at Carl-Zuckmayer Str. 27, SS127 Mainz, Germany.

Compo and Over-Scan shared a stand like they did at CeBIT. CD-ROM-ROM announced there, was shown running. This

Pam Software's Flex Link network Ethernet adapter cartridge comes bundled with a double speed CD-ROM drive and software for DMS99 (about £240), a perfect solution for owners of older STs.

Also shown was Tabby, a small tablet the size of a mouse pad. Priced at DMI99 (about £80) it plugs into the modem port and acts as a mouse replacement. OverScan also ran a "hyper-

media" presentation using Overlay video titler, going for DM199 (about £80). OverScan are at Elbestr. 28/29, 1204S Berlin, Germany.

TOS POWER

However, the most impressive item at the stand, and the one which drew the crowds and the admiration, was naturally the Medusa TOS-compatible computer.

Medusa sells for about DM8,000 (about £3,200) and is undeniably the most powerful TOS-compatible computer today. (For more about Compo and their new products please refer to Compo profile elsewhere in this issue.)

Janus, the complete ST on an ISA PC card, was shown running. This is a hardware ST emulator for people who wish to have access to the superior ST software on a PC.

In addition, the ST user gets access to various PC hardware to enhance the ST's performance. For example, the ST can run in resolutions of up to 1,024x768x256 as the PC takes over the display chores as well as I/O resulting also in considerable speed increase.

The basic price for the Janus card alone



Overscan's mouse replacement, Tabby



Overscan's CD-ROM-ROM



with a 16MHz 68000 will be around DM800 (about £320) but, for example, with 2Mb and TOS 2.06 is goes up to DM1,180 (about £470). Janus is available from VHF, Daimlerstr. 13, 71101 Schoenaich, Germany.

BlowUp, adopting the name of their flagship product, have exhibited an amazing array of new products for the Falcon. PSI is a pocket S/PDIF Interface.

This digital interface enables you to connect a CD or DAT player to the Falcon. The sound can then be recorded and played back in digital form! Priced at DM448 (about £180) it plugs into the DSP port. It runs with both Cubase Audio and Digit II. What's more, all software information about the interface will be included in the manual so programmers can expand its features.

Another piece of hardware wizardry from BlowUp is TAsS. It turns the Falcon into a digital answering machine.

The box connects to the audio input/output sockets and works through signals via RCA plugs. Another cable connects to the telephone wall socket.



Stone Age in all resolutions by Eclipse

What's marvellous about TAsS is that you leave your Falcon off. On receiving the call, TAsS turns the Falcon on, pretends to be an answering machine and then turns the Falcon off again. The software runs under MultiTOS and will not interfere with the current task.

In addition to answering machine and voice mail capabilities, TAsS will also support both modem and fax transmissions. TAsS will be available later this year at an estimated price of about DM 300(£120).

Also from BlowUp is the new low-price word processing system Gut 'n' berg. This full-featured program relies fully on Speedo and is expected soon for only DM149 (about £60). BlowUp are at Eslarner Str. 34, 81549 Munich, Germany.



ST emulator Janus on a PC

Although DMC - the makers of Calamus - were not at the show, other third party Calamus support was present in force. Adequate Systems showed a number of new modules, among them Merge and Filter, the latter with frequency modulated rasters. Crazy-Bits showed a colour printer driver for the Primera printers.

A Dutch company called Allround Engineering exhibited CADANS through their German representative. This is the only CAD program for the ST still being actively developed.

CAD in this case stands for Computer Aided Drafting. The images in CADANS can be enlarged up to 5,000 times which was demonstrated with an image of a cruise ship. A few clicks with the mouse zoom to a single table in a room.

CADANS comes in two versions, standard for DM499 (about £200) and AUTO-CAD-compatible professional version for DM998 (about £400). Allround Engineering are at PHJ van der Zande, 2181 KJ, Hillegom, The Netherlands.

Contrary to popular belief, German Atari companies are not all work and no



It's in the can: Omikron's PixArt 2.0

play. Eclipse showed Stone Age, a game complete with dinosaurs. This refreshingly non-violent yet intriguing game runs on all Ataris in both colour and monochrome, and even on big-screen monitors!

A built-in soundtracker pumps out eight tracks of sounds. The goal of the game is to help the little dragon out of the prehistoric cave system. There are 100 levels and two skills to choose from. Available from Eclipse for DM79 (about £30). Stone Age is available from Michael Nolte Computersysteme, Vasters Str. 10, 50825 Cologne, Germany.

And last but not least, Omikron, one of the original German ST companies, showed version2 of their paint package PixArt.

It can now process an image up to A0 size and then print it out as a number of A4-sized pages. PixArt runs in all resolutions and uses up to 16.7 million colours. It will also convert images using dithering from colour to monochrome or reduce the number of colours.

Maximum resolution is 32,000x32,000 pixels in true colour and it can import Kodak CD pictures. There is now a totally flexible zoom in one per cent increments. PixArt is available in the UK from the ST Club.

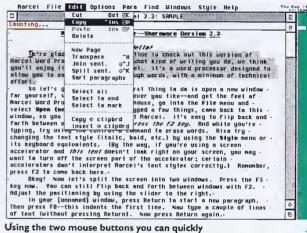
The software comes in a paint can about a foot high which caused quite a few concerned looks on the train as your reporter was on the way back home.

Overall, proTOS reiterated once again the resilience of Atari companies in Germany. In spite of neglect by Atari currently concentrating fully on the Jaguar - the new developments for the Atari line of computers continue unabated, particularly for the Falcon.

The overall impression is that, after Atari dropped the ball, the third party has picked it up and run with it. And now it's Atari's turn to catch up. Whether they do or not is becoming increasingly irrelevant if third party supporters continue coming out with new software and even TOScompatible computers at this rate.



This month's disk features a word processer called Marcel, three great games - WingLord, Painter and Termodroid, and much more



Using the two mouse buttons you can quickly highlight blocks of text for easy copy and pasting

Marcel

THERE'S no doubting that word processing is one of the most popular applications for the ST. There is a plethora of both commercial and shareware word processor packages available, most of a very high quality.

Marcel is a fairly recent addition to the many shareware packages available and contains lots of features, some of which you usually only find in commercial equivalents.

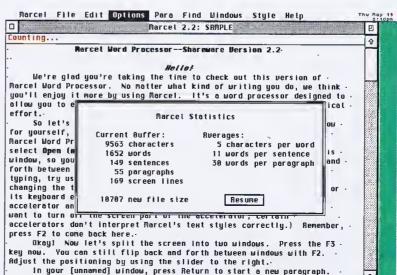
It also comes with printer drivers for some of the most popular printers, including HP DeskJet and LaserJet printers, Citizen, Epsoncompatible and even Atari's SLM804 laser printer.

As with all the best packages, Marcel has good block editing functions. Selecting sections of text within a document is easily done by A feature-packed and versatile word processor, complete with spelling checker

selecting the start and end of the block using the left and right mouse buttons.

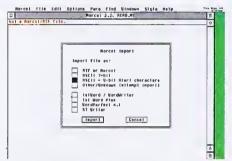
You can then cut, copy, delete or paste the text with ease. Marcel features multiple windows allowing up to three documents to be displayed on screen. You can even cut and paste text between the displayed documents.

Statistical information on the currently selected document is available at the click of a button. Information such as the number of words and paragraphs as well as the average



Statistical information. such as a word count, is a vailable on any document instantly

Program	Ву	Configuration	File/s	Disk space needed to extract
WingLord demo	Victor Bruho	All STs Low res	X_WNGLRD.TDS - Self extracting archive	446464 bytes
Marcel	Marcel Software	All STs Medium or high res	X_MARCEL.TDS - Sell extracting archive X_OICT.TOS - Self extracting archive	452170 bytes 574693 bytes
The BBS Directory Demo	Mark Westguard	All STs TOS 1.62 or lower Medium or high res	X_BBSDIR.LZH - Self extracting archive	254662 bytes
Droid	Below Zero Software	All STs Low res	X_DROID.TOS - Sell extracting archive	273912 bytes
Painter	Sinister Developments	All STs Low res	X_PAINT.TDS - Sell extracting archive	236286 bytes
Speed-o-meter	Erin Matthew Monaco	All STs All resolutions	X_SPEEDD.TOS - Self extracting archive	5634 bytes

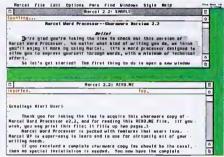


Marcel includes good support for importing documents created in other popular word processors

number of characters or words per sentence and the number of words per paragraph is useful.

When you run Marcel, you will notice that the time and date are displayed on the menu bar at top right. Marcel has facilities for setting the time and date, a built-in alarm clock and you can even insert the current time and date within the document at the click of a button.

If you use Marcel regularly, you can register your version for a mere £10. Once you have sent off your registration fee, you will receive a user's manual and certificate. The manual

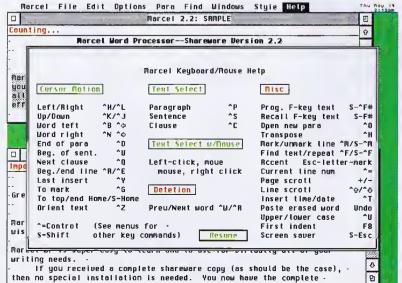


Up to three documents can be displayed on screen at once, with the ability to cut and paste text between them

contains complete explanations of all Marcel's features as well as hints and tips on how to get the most from your word processor. Details for registration are contained in the READ.ME file.-

Written a program?

Then send it to Atari ST User - we pay £££s for quality CoverDisk submissions



On-screen help on the numerous keyboard shortcuts is available from the help menu

Using the CoverDisk

Write-protect your CoverDisk now by sliding the write-protect tab so you can see through the hole at the top right corner of the CoverDisk.

In order to fill the disk with as many programs as possible, ST User employs disk compression techniques when placing large programs on the CoverDisk.

These files are termed "archived files" and cannot be directly executed from the CoverDisk, Archived files are identified by their names beginning with X_.

Any files that do not begin with X_ are actually folders containing files which are not compressed.

These uncompressed files should also be copied to a blank disk. Following are a series of step-by-step instructions for using the CoverDisk.

Important: The ST User CoverDisk uses an extended format of 10 sectors and 81 tracks to increase storage space. This means you will not be able to copy the disk using the ST's built-in copying feature.

To make a backup of the CoverDisk, you will need a copying utility, such as FastCopy 3. Such utilities are available from all good PD libraries.

Alternatively, you may use a formatting utility, to format a disk to the same 10 sector, 82 track specification as the CoverDisk and simply copy all files to this.

Using archived files

Note: When copying files, the ST refers to disk A and disk B in its on-screen instructions. Disk A refers to the disk being copied while disk B refers to the disk being copied to (usually a pre-formatted blank disk).

- I. Format a disk.
- 2. Copy the required archived file to the formatted
- 3. Run the copied archived file. It will now automatically "extract" to its full size.
- 4. Once complete, delete the X_ filename as this is no longer required. The formatted disk should now contain all the files that were in the archive file.

Normal uncompressed files

- I. Format a blank disk
- 2. Open the required folder and copy all files in the folder to the formatted disk.
- 3. You can now immediately run the program/s as is.

Highlighting and dragging files and icons

- 1. Click once on the item, it should turn black (the item is now highlighted).
- 2. If you keep the left mouse button held down on the item, a dotted outline of the item appears and you may

re-position it by moving the mouse to the required position (effectively dragging the icon) and releasing

If you are new to the ST and did not understand some of the terminology in the preceding steps. There now follow an explanation of some basic techniques needed.

Formatting a disk

- I. Place the disk to be formatted in the drive.
- 2. Highlight the drive A icon.
- 3. Move mouse pointer up to the FILE menu at the top of the screen and select FORMAT.
- 4. A box will appear. Click on OK.
- 5. Another box will appear. Ensure DOUBLE SIDED is selected then click on OK. The disk is now being formatted.

Copying files to another disk

- 1. Select the file to be copied by highlighting it and dragging it to the disk B icon.
- 2. A box entitled COPY FILE(s) appears. Click on OK and follow instructions on the screen exchanging disks as requested.

The BBS Directory demo

If you have a modem and want to get information on your local bulletin board systems then this program can help you out

MANY of you no doubt remember the first days of owning a modem. After hastily unpacking the beast, you quickly connected your ST to the world of comms and then found yourself calling all manner of strange numbers to log onto equally strange bulletin boards.

Many times you may not have known anything about the BBS, such as how far away it was, what system you were logging onto, what speeds, or whether the board catered for any of your interests.

Of course, it wasn't too long before you found that many bulletin boards had text files listing many BBS numbers along with the necessary information on what modem settings and speeds it supported.

The BBS Directory is a utility which contains

THE BBS DIRECTORY SET SEARCH LOGATION RADIUS BUS SEARCH SEARCH FOR A BBS Search code/full number: B1. Only numbers and spaces. UNENOWN LOCATION. PROGRAM INFO EXIT PROGRAM

To search for BBS systems in London, for example, simply enter the area dialling code 081

information on BBS systems throughout the country with versatile search facilities for locating other systems.

When you run the program, a map of Britain will be displayed. As you enter the search data, this map also provides a visual display as to where the BBS is located.

The search facilities include the ability to do a radius search, search by name, telephone number or location. For example, if you want to know about any BBS systems which are local to Manchester, you would simply enter the Manchester telephone dialling code (061).

Clicking on Radius BBS Search will then search for any BBS systems within a specified radius. The size of the area searched can be changed, but British Telecom charges local rates within a radius of 35 miles, so this is the default value used by the BBS Directory.

Once the search is complete, all the numbers found are listed on screen with the option of printing them out. Although not



Once an area has been chosen, select Radius BBS Search to locate any BBS systems within a specified distance

present in this demo version, you can also get detailed information on the highlighted BBS.

If you want the full version of the BBS Directory, you can register by sending £5 to the author. The complete version has well over 580 BBS numbers in its database, as well as extra information on specific BBS

If it wasn't for some very talented shareware authors, the ST games scene would be a lot duller. So, a big round of applause goes out to the authors/groups who support shareware.

If you would like to see more shareware games for the ST, be sure to support these people and send off the suggested registration fee. You now it makes sense.

Painter

Outmanoeuvre your opponent to fill in the grid squares in this simple but highly addictive game

SIMPLE ideas seem to be the main ingredient in any addictive game. Painter is no exception.

In this frantic chase game, you must move your player along the grid lines (which will change colour as you move along them) avoiding the computer-controlled opponents while trying to complete square areas of the grid.

Once complete, each grid will fill with a colour and once all areas of the grid are filled, you continue on to the next level. You do have a weapon of sorts though.

Should you find yourself about to get your collar felt by the computer opponents, press the trigger to create a temporary hole in the grid.

Your opponents (and you too) will not be able to pass over this hole, thereby giving you a means of escape from certain capture.

To make things interesting, some levels have invisible grid lines which you have to find in order to complete the level.

When you register for this game, you will get Sinister Developments' next program before general release, as well as 100 extra levels and a level designer for Painter.



It may look like a simple game, but it's fiendishly addictive all the

Termodroid

HAVE you ever wondered why aliens haven't contacted us yet? Scientists say that statistically speaking there has to be life out there.

That may be so, but if you think about all the movies and TV series that have been beamed into space depicting earthlings battling it out with invading aliens, it's quite likely that such transmissions have been intercepted by other

And what would they think? Probably best to leave a planet full of xenophobic carbon-based bi-peds well alone methinks.

Things are further complicated by the number of computer games in which you try your best to destroy the alien beasties. It just may be that aliens can also pick up computer transmissions, which would give the impression that we also thoroughly enjoy such xenophobic homicide.

Anyhow, enough theories, what's this game like? Well, I have to say it's jolly good alien bashing fun indeed.

The game is a horizontally scrolling affair and your mission is to shoot anything that gets in front of you. Along the way, you can pick up various power-ups that increase your firepower and speed, as well as the odd bonus point object to boost your score. If things start

Take control of a heavily armed fighting droid and waste the aliens in this manic blast-'em-up

to get a little crowded and dangerous on the screen, you do have access to a limited number of nuclear bombs that obliterate everything (except you of course) on the screen. Jolly handy indeed.

Termodroid costs a mere £5 to register. For your money, you will be sent Termodroid II featuring loads more levels and enhanced gameplay.



The general rule to this manic game is if it moves, blast it

WingLord demo

REMEMBER the old Atari Joust game which appeared in the arcades many moons ago? It was totally original and differed from anything else around at the time.

The game involved flying around on strange creatures, lance in hand, in a mid-air medieval jousting battle with other riders and

The overall strategy of the game was to ram your opponents while repeatedly pressing the fire button to make your steed flap its wings and maintains height.

If you were at a greater height than the opponent you hit, he would be destroyed. If however, he was higher than you, you were done for.

Things were complicated by the fact that there were quite a few opponents flying around and you had to have a quick eye and Do medieval battle on strange flying beasts in this great game of fun and mayhem

equally quick reactions. In this demo of WingLord, the same fun and gameplay has returned with extra features to make it even more fun. For instance, you now have missiles which you can fire at opponents.

The game is divided into waves, with each wave becoming increasingly difficult. Every fifth wave is a survival wave which, if you manage to get through offers 3,000 bonus points. Every 10,000 gives you another life.

Although the game works on all STs, those with STEs will have extra sound effects and

shareware games -WingLord, Termodroid and Painter

smoother and faster sprites. You can only play up to wave 19 in this demo version, so if you enjoy the game - and you will - you can register for \$8 at the address listed in the WING.TXT file.



Classic aerial mayhem in this great game based on the old jouster from yesteryear



Survive the swarm levels and you get lots of bonus points. What's more, you get an extra life every 10,000 points

peed 'o' meter

When your computer is running, there are certain tasks which will slow it down. Moving the mouse for instance will slow down the computer

Just how much your computer slows down is shown by Speedo 'o' meter. Once run, a window will open with a bar display indicating the current performance of your computer.

If you then move your mouse around, you will see the bar drop down slightly. This is because your computer is having to process the data coming from the mouse.

In a multi-tasking operating system, there can be many things going on in the background. For instance, you could be using a word processor while a file is being archived.

Speedo 'o' meter will give you a rough idea of the kind of performance lag that is going on due to these tasks. The figures are given in percentages along the bar display.

> This gives you an idea of how your computer is performing under multi-tasking operating systems

Want to find out how fast your computer is performing under multi-tasking operating systems such as MultiTOS? Speed 'o' meter is just the ticket



CoverDisk Hotline

Hotline number: 0625 859766, 2pm to 5pm every Wednesdoy.

If you have ony other problems with the CoverDisk, our technicol editor, Dorren Evons, will be ovoilable on the Atori ST User CoverDisk Hotline. Help is only avoilable within the times specified, and no odvice will be ovoilable outside these hours.

If a fault turns up...

With thousands of disks being duplicated each month, o few will inevitably be foulty. Fortunotely, we con help you. Send the foulty disk to:

PC Wise, Dowlais Top Business Park, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glomorgon CF48 2YY.

A replocement will be sent free of charge but please ollow 28 days for delivery.

nless you happen to have been living on another planet for the last few months, you're bound to have heard about the CD-ROM revolution. This isn't new technology but it has suddenly come of age, particularly in the PC and Mac markets where CD-ROM-based entertainment and multimedia is big business.

The good news is that CD ROM has finally arrived on the Atari scene and drives can now be connected quite easily to any model from the 520ST upwards.

CD-ROM drives resemble floppy disk drives but they use standard audio CD size disks that have had data permanently recorded onto them. As a result, the disks are read-only, but as they are extremely cheap to produce and can hold up to 600 megabytes or more of data, that's hardly

They are used to read data rather than save it and there is a vast range of CD-ROMs on the market with all kinds of information you can use on your Atari.

Atari computers use ACSI/SCSI to talk to other data storage peripherals and CD-ROM drives are no exception, so the first rule is that you must have a SCSI-compatible drive. They can vary in price quite considerably but they're not quite as cheap as the proprietary drives being bought up by PC owners. SCSI is more reliable and faster and you pay

If you have an ST or STE with an existing SCSI (not Atari) hard drive, you can add the CD-ROM drive to your setup. Your hard drive will already have a host adapter either inside the case or outside in the case of The Link and Translator.



Adding another SCSI device is particularly easy if your hard drive has a SCSI through-port. Even if it doesn't, all you need is a special three-way SCSI cable.

And if you don't have a hard drive, you can attach a CD-ROM drive to the hard disk port with an external host adapter such as The Link or System Solutions' Translator. Falcon owners can dispense with the adapter as it supports SCSI devices directly.

Next comes the question of software. Your CD-ROM drive won't

work just because it's attached to your computer. Like a hard drive, or any other device for that matter, it needs a driver so that TOS knows it's there and how to access it.

Several years ago, Atari introduced MetaDOS which was aimed primarily at accessing their own CDAR-504 but as the latter was never launched commercially, MetaDOS support was pretty patchy.

Support was provided recently by ICD with The Link/Pro sets of hard drive utilities but the company later started supplying a MINT driver after the MetaDOS drivers were found to be rather unreliable and didn't work on the Falcon.

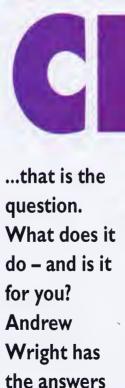
WORKING PROPERLY

MetaDOS is now available from many PD libraries (version 2.3 is currently on many BBSs too) but it should be treated with caution. While it does support both high Sierra and ISO 9660 formats, it fails to access some files properly and they appear corrupted when copied to a hard or floppy drive. It is also very complicated to set up and you'll need to edit the CONFIG.SYS file with a text editor.

The MINT driver supplied with the current version of the ICD The Link/Pro utilities (6.5.x onwards) now works properly on any Atari with MINT or MultiTOS installed.

This is a single file with an XFS extension that is copied to the root directory of the boot drive. The filename has to be altered to reflect the SCSI ID of the CD-ROM drive and the drive letter to be assigned, but that's all. Similar drivers are available with Photo Show and Studio Photo (see following pages) if you don't need the ICD utilities.



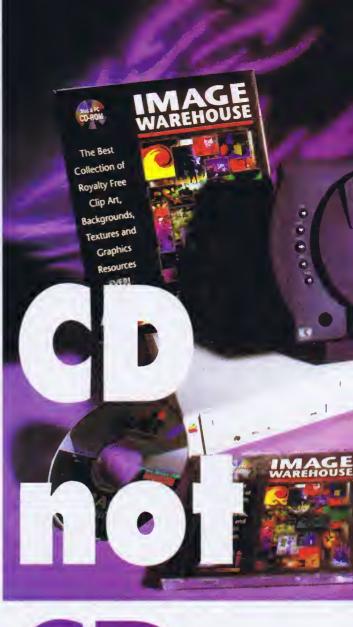


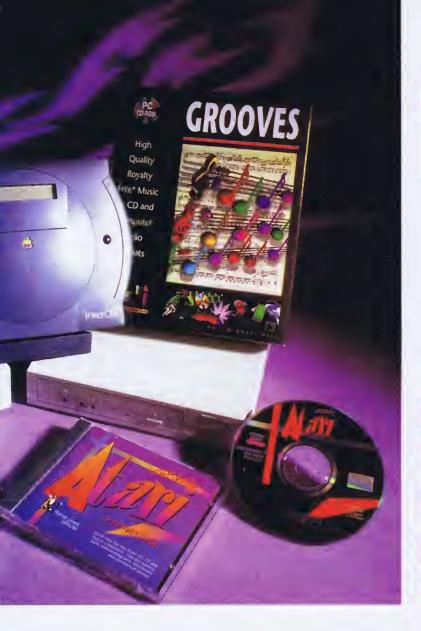
Toshiba 4101S

Toshiba have a well-deserved reputation in the CD-ROM market and their new 4101S is a nice-looking, solid, slimline drive with a beige metal case and plastic front which will easily sit on top of a hard drive and support a monitor.

It measures 10ins (250mm) long by 8ins (200mm) wide and less than 2ins (40mm) high. It has a single SCSI-2 port at the rear (no SCSI through facility), standard power socket, an on/off switch and a bank of mode select headers cunningly concealed beneath a plate on the underside. Hardly convenient, but some sacrifices have to be made for the slimline design.

On the front is a volume control for audio play, a 3.5mm headphone jack socket, power-on light and drive activity





Standards

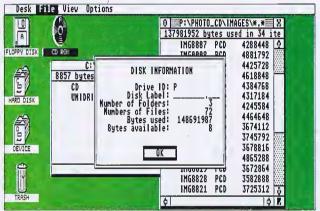
There are dozens of standards around but as with any developing technology the industry is slowly beginning to get it together.

The main CD-ROM disc format is ISO 9660 and the vast majority of CD-ROMs now follow this format although there are still some High Sierra format discs around. All the Atari drivers can read both these discs.

Reading a PhotoCD disc requires two separate drive standards. A drive must be CD-XA-compatible to read a PhotoCD but if it is single session, as many old drives are, it will only read the images that were originally placed on the disc. If subsequent images are added, as is common, the drive will be unable to see them in the file structure.

To access these, a multi-session drive is required. Most manufacturers advertise drives as being simply "PhotoCDcompatible" but you should check for multi-session support.

CD-DA is the digital audio standard used on music CDs. Almost all drives will play audio CDs though some may need special driver software.



CD-ROMs offer masses and masses of data on a cheap disk

light as well as a small emergency eject hole.

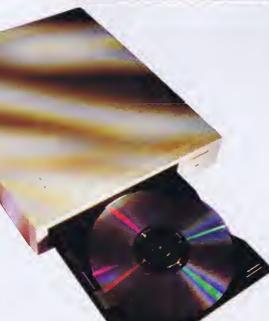
The SCSI-2 compatible drive unit is a double speed model with a 300k/s transfer rate and 385ms access time through a 64k hardware buffer. It is PhotoCD and audio disk compatible and will even double as a basic audio disc player when disconnected from the computer and attached to a hi-fi or headphones. I say basic because the only commands possible are stop, start, and next track.

Interestingly the Toshiba supports the so-called "CD-DA over SCSI" standard. This means that in theory, with the right software, you could read the data on an audio CD-ROM and save it in a digital format on your hard disk.

The mode select headers - fiddly things that require jumpers to be added or removed - allow any SCSI ID to be selected and also support parity enabling or disabling, audio/data mode selection and termination power on or off. The drive also features a motorised eject system and tray loading and unloading of disks.

Being double speed, the Toshiba transfers large amounts of data very quickly indeed and at times isn't noticeably slower than the average Atari-branded Megafile hard drive. Despite the fiddly switches underneath, it comes highly recommended.

Product: Toshiba 41015 Ideal Hardware, 3rd Floor Low Rise, Tolworth Tower, Surbiton, KT6 7EL Telephone: 081-390 1211 Price: £329 Configuration: Any Atari with SCSI host adapter



ExtenDOS

The most stable driver software is ExtenDOS from System Solutions. It's an extension of MetaDOS but it's much more reliable and performs better despite having no direct support for PhotoCD discs.

The program and accompanying drivers come on a single disc with a 20page manual. The software works on any Atari in all screen resolutions, including the Falcon and TT, and uses up a relatively small amount of memory (60K upwards), making it suitable for use on basic half-megabyte machines if necessary. It supports any SCSI CD-ROM drive, via a host adapter on STs, STEs and Megas, with or without parity enabled.

CONFIGURED

Although ExtenDOS comes ready configured for SCSI device 5 and booting from a hard drive C, it isn't difficult to alter these with the help of the manual which comprehensively covers all the aspects of installation and the various configurable parameters. You'll need a good text editor like EdHak or Everest, but that's all.

The driver program, EXTENDOS.

PRG, and configuration file, EXTEN-DOS.CNF, are placed in the AUTO folder and the two drivers, CD.BOS for the CD-ROM itself and the other, UNIDRIVE.DOS, specifically for ISO 9660 and High Sierra formats, are placed in the EXTENDOS folder. A third alternative driver is supplied which apparently accesses disks that the standard driver has problems with.

Features include the ability to trace hardware commands issued by CD.BOS using a table stored in RAM; two types of caching to improve performance; and the extremely useful option of having all files recovered from a CD-ROM made read/write as opposed to read only which they would be using the normal MINT/MetaDOS drivers.

One problem did come to light. The caching worked well on the whole, improving performance by

over 20 per cent once the optimum parameters were discovered. But when the cache was increased beyond 12 buffers (out of a maximum of 32) the contents of folders couldn't be accessed on otherwise normal disks.

However, with audio support and PhotoCD compatibility promised and upgrades likely in the near future, this is the one to go for.



Apple PowerCD

There has been a lot of speculation as to why Apple, traditionally selling only the most expensive kit, have offered such well-priced CD-ROM drives. Don't join in - just take advantage of it!

> The PowerCD is a fairly old, single-speed drive but that doesn't stop it being an excellent buy for an Atari user. The main advantage is that it doubles as a portable audio CD player when used with headphones or external speakers and a portable PhotoCD player when

connected to a TV.

The complete pack contains drive, base, power adapter, infra-red remote control, leads for audio and PhotoCD use and two AAA batteries. As if that wasn't already good value, three

CD-ROMs are also included. They are designed for use with Apple Macs but the images are in PhotoCD format and can be viewed

PowerCD

using any suitable ST software or in PhotoCD play mode.

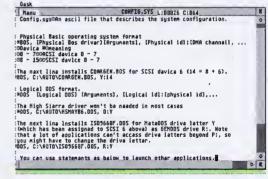
The drive itself is a Philips mechanism built into a decidedly odd case. It looks like a portable CD player but has a fairly bulky stand incorporating the power supply and batteries. At the back there's a single SCSI-2 port and a simple selector switch for the SCSI ID.

CHEAP

On the front of the case is an orange LED window which contains the word 'data' when in use as a CD-ROM drive. There's a mode button to switch play modes between data, audio and PhotoCD and several buttons for controlling the latter two functions with a good many more on the remote control console. The drive also switches mode automatically so PhotoCD discs can be read with ExtenDOS, even though it doesn't directly support it.

All in all, if you want a very cheap introduction to the world of CD as well as a handy home gadget, this drive has to be well worth a look.

Product: Apple PowerCD Supplier: Computer Warehouse, 9 Hatton Street. London NWB Telephone: 071-724 4104 Price: £163.32 Configuration: Any Atari with SCS! host adapter



Editing a CONFIG.SYS file with MetaDOS - this smacks of PCs

Software by the bucketload

Once you've got your CD-ROM drive up and running, it's time to look around for something to put in it. Atari-specific titles are thin on the ground at present so the best source is the PC market. Look at adverts in Atari ST User's sister magazines Multimedia Now or PC Home and shop around for the best prices.

Many titles, such as GIFs Galore (6,000 GIF format images) and Too Many Typefonts (nearly 400 PostScript Type I fonts), are often advertised at under £10.

These mags even come with a free CD-ROM on the cover, which you can read on an Atari system. You can't run the software (unless you have a PC emulator) but you can read the text files and view the images and

The first Atari specific disc was the GEMini disk from Walnut Creek released a few months ago. Distributed by System Solutions for £24.95, the disk contains 2,872 Atari specific files - an incredible 616Mb of data in all.

The GEMini CD-ROM is mainly composed of shareware and PD utilities and includes over 50Mb of games and a number of commercial demos, animations, full colour graphics files, sound samples and even 15Mb of assorted fonts for DTP programs like Calamus, Timeworks and PageStream. There are also text files on various topics and some archived online magazines. The software is supplied in ready-to-run and archived ZIP formats and there's a complete index supplied on the disk as a large text file.

Some of the software is already out of date but even so there is around 400Mb of ready-to-run software to fiddle with. Other disks are under preparation, including two PD discs from Germany. All are being supplied by System Solutions.

If you're into graphics there are several excellent titles to choose from, although many of the clip art disks do contain a lot of poor quality scans.

Image Warehouse is an exceptional title with some 360 files in TIFF format, all in 24-bit colour and ranging in size from a few hundred kilobytes to over 2Mb.

Almost every image processing program will import them and they are completely royalty free so you are welcome to use them in your own designs. The disc contains some backgrounds for presentations, texture effects and images on a variety of subjects.

My only grumble is that there is no catalogue or thumbnail section each one has to be loaded and viewed individually.

Music is well represented too - Grooves is a CD-ROM packed with royalty-free music files in Windows WAV format that can easily be converted to a suitable Atari format such as AVR. The Falcon's SAM utility can play them directly, of course. These two discs are available from MDI on 0252 737630.

Sounds groovy...

Audio facilities are lagging behind at present but several utilities are on the way, including an upgrade to ExtenDOS. The few shareware titles that have been around for a year or more have all worked with specific drives.

Theoretically it should be possible to play audio CDs by sending the appropriate SCSI commands, but the prospect of dedicated utilities will mean you will be able to program sequences of tracks, play them around in any order and flick quickly backwards through the playlist in just the same way as a hi-fi unit.

TruePaint will also import PhotoCD - one of the cheapest programs to offer the feature



The need for speed

There's no doubt that the PC world is driving the CD-ROM market. The boom started less than two years ago with the introduction of cheap drives with non-SCSI interfaces transferring data at around 150k/s.

These single speed drives have now given way to double speed drives (300k/s), following the advent of motion video in games and other entertainment titles. There are now triple and quadruple speed drives coming onto the market with data transfer rates approaching those of slower hard drives (the average ST hard drive transfers data at between 700 and 1200k/s).

In the Atari world, speed is less important as multimedia titles incorporating video aren't available. Some will want the double speed or faster drives in order to access data more quickly. It doesn't bother me whether it takes 10 seconds to load a PhotoCD image or 20 seconds, as long as I can load it!



GEM-View will read and convert PhotoCD images

Photo Show Export Module by It's All Relative

2233 Keeven, Florissant, MO 63031 (314) 831-9482

With support for the Kodak Photo CD System Portions (c) 1991 Eastman Kodak Company

Version 1.4 for All A Computers

(c) 1993

Exporting a PhotoCD image from Photo Show's utility

Kodak

The final analysis

Setting up a CD-ROM drive has several potential pitfalls. First, some drives are supplied with parity enabled, in which case they won't work with some host adapters like The Link

This has to be changed using either jumpers, dip switches or even electronic surgery. Secondly, problems have been reported when daisy-chaining, such as where to place the Atari laser and how to get termination power to the last unit in the chain.

Added to the other awkward operations like setting SCSI IDs, configuring the software and choosing the right drive letters (some programs can't access logical drives after P), the chances are you'll experience some problem

Anyone with any doubts about getting a CD-ROM drive up and running should look to System Solutions for help. They have invested a lot of time and effort in putting together a working system and are the only UK Atari dealer with expertise in the field.

At present they can supply a double speed Apple CD300 drive including ExtenDOS and Translator host adapter for just £299. Falcon owners can get it for £40 less with a SCSI cable instead of the adapter. We didn't review it because we know it works - we've had one up and running in the ST User office for nearly a year!

What's more, the CD300 reads PhotoCD images in the same way that the PowerCD does, even with

Things are hotting up too. As we went to press, Ladbroke Computing announced plans to incorporate a Philips CD-ROM drive in a DataPulse-style case, alongside a SCSI hard drive, which ought to make a neat, budget solu-

At the same time, It's All Relative, developers of Photo Show, have announced a new audio CD playing utility that will work with all SCSI drives. Watch this space!

You can get an awful lot out of a CD-ROM drive. You won't be able to play PC games or access the latest multimedia titles unless new products start to appear specifically for the Atari platform.

However, you will be able to build up a massive library of information and data files ranging from clip art, PhotoCD images and 256 colour GIFs to the complete works of authors like Shakespeare, countless Midi and song files, PostScript fonts and gigabytes of C source code. You might think £300 a lot of money just to add a kind of super floppy drive, but I now have a library of nearly two gigabytes of images for DTP and image processing work and a complete PD library of programs, any of which I can load in a matter

All of a sudden, it's easy to see why the CD-ROM has turned the PC and Mac worlds upside down. Let's hope it can do the same for Atari.

Smile, you're on PhotoCD!

PhotoCD is Kodak's method of digitising images directly from film to CD-ROM. Basically you take your roll of holiday snaps or whatever along to a

developer with PhotoCD facilities and some time later (usually ten days at outlets like Boots) get handed a CD-ROM all nicely packaged with a thumbnail of each image on the cover.

On the disk there can be up to a hundred or more image files ranging in size from 3-6Mb each. With a suitable viewer you can look at the snaps in one of five resolutions ranging from 128 by 192 pixels all the way to 2048 by 3072 pixels.

Programs like Photo Show, a dedicated Falcononly PhotoCD slide show from System Solutions, can display the images fairly quickly in succession at 368 by 256 resolution and the Pro version of the program can overlay text using Speedo fonts. Studio Photo, Compo's image processing

software, can load and manipulate the images, though the available resolutions will depend on your computer's RAM. With 4Mb of RAM you can load the 512 by 768 pixel versions

but you'll need a Falcon equipped with the Outside virtual memory manager to load in the biggest ones - they require around 19Mb of RAM to load.

Drives like the PowerCD make sense as they double up as PhotoCD viewers so you can hook them

straight to your TV and view PhotoCD images in your living

Tel: 081-345 6000 Fax: 081-345 6868

£1 MILLION STOCK CLEARANCE SALE

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Devpac ST3	SALE
HiSoft Basic 2	SALE
HiSoft CLattice C5.6 ST/TT/Falcon	SALE
Lattice C5.6 ST/TT/Falcon	SALE
High Speed Pascal ST/TT	SALE
FTL Modula-2 Developer Nevada COBOL Devpac DSP Modern Atari System S/W	SALE
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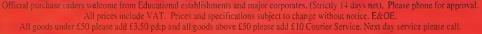
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uill is a unique freehand vector drawing program designed to make use of the new low cost Tabby graphics tablet. It emulates natural drawing styles using shaped or italicised nibs and does it far better than you could ever hope to do with your mouse.

That's the theory and as one who has never been able to transfer what little drawing skills I have from pen to screen, I was looking forward to trying it out.

The program itself runs as a desk accessory or as a stand-alone program. It runs in ST high or medium resolutions and on the Falcon in everything but true colour modes. It works on any ST, from the 520 upwards.

The program comes with a 15-page manual and the disk has a personalised registration feature to help prevent unauthorised copying. Also supplied are special Tabby drivers and configuration accessories, as well as a patch program to make accelerator, NVDI work properly.

ATTRACTIVE

Not that you have to own a Tabby, of course - Quill works perfectly well with a mouse, although you lose the fine control of freehand movements that the Tabby pen provides.

Quill features an attractive interface with a representation of the tablet in the centre and various icons above and to the left. There's also a status window at the top which provides some online help.

Clicking on the pen nib icon starts drawing and each stroke is recorded on screen as a vector object. You can alter the nib shape, size and structure by pressing the spacebar or the right mouse button and then pressing the mouse pointer on the nib icon. Clicking on

The magic wand

The Tabby – available from CGS ComputerBild – is an A5 sized graphics tablet that consists of a flat but slightly angled plastic surface, 170x145mm in size, with a pen shaped object attached to it by a thin lead. The two-piece tabby is made of rigid grey plastic with a clip-on pen holder and it plugs into the serial port of any Atari.

The position of the pointer on the screen is relative to that of the pen in relation to the working area of the tablet. It can be used alongside a mouse or can replace it entirely.



Signatures can be signed and look realistic too!

Rotate or Squash Nib allows you to move the mouse or Tabby pen until you get precisely the shape and angle that you want (the mouse still works while the Tabby driver is installed because the latter uses the serial port).

Once you've drawn your shape you can actually edit it stroke by stroke if you need to. By editing I mean moving or deleting strokes or even altering the structure of the existing graphic by making changes to the pen.

For example, you can draw with a thin nib, then thicken it, slant it or even alter

Andrew Wright discovers Quill, a new drawing program with a difference

cence

the ink flow after you have finished

Deleting or moving drawings is easy simply click on the dustbin and apply a rubber band to the area you want cleared or moved. Perhaps the most interesting feature is the smoothing.

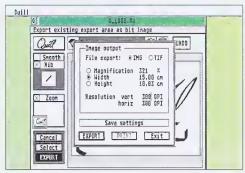
When tracing or drawing slowly, a little shaking is to be expected, so Quill can smooth the strokes in varying degrees. Values between 4 and 16 are recommended and work very well. The only problem with the smoothing algorithm is that it slows down the drawing speed, so it's important to get the balance right.

Obviously you have to do something with your work, and Quill has a handy export facility in addition to its own proprietary vector format that allows you to save partially completed work.

At present only the IMG export feature is enabled, but you can specify the size and resolution of the final image to



Line drawings can be traced accurately with Quill and Tabby



Quill can export bitmap images at any resolution

get just the right proportions for your DTP or art program. Quill has a few idiosyncrasies.

It's quite easy to lose the pointer, especially in zoom mode and if you accidentally draw above or to the left of the tablet area you won't

see anything at all. You can work off the tablet area, by dragging the zoom area right and downwards out of the window but this is for experts only - I got hopelessly confused.

Some screen corruption may occur on the Falcon in colour modes, and conflicts occasionally arise in desk accessory mode where. On the whole though, Quill is pretty

stable and causes few problems with other software.

The Quill/Tabby combination makes life a lot easier for artists and the bitmapped results can be imported into colour paint programs or autotraced in programs like DA's Vector and used as clip art. Those interested in handwriting recognition and analysis, font design, calligraphy or lettering, will find it useful too.

Not everyone will want this program, of course, and it is clearly aimed at Tabby owners, although the author, Mousetricks programmer Jonathan Lawrence, is currently working on a version for the mouse.

BOTTOM

FEATURES A great idea that can Average Bad Appalling certainly enhance computer artwork. Excellent Good **EASE OF USE** Average Bad Very easy to use but not quite as easy to get used to. Appalling **VALUE FOR MONEY** Excellent Doubles the ettectiveness of Average Bad Appalling the Tabby without splashing out too much. Product: Quill

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Price: £29.99 Configuration: Any Atari

Virtuality

Profile: British producers of VR games for the arcade industry

irtuality have recently released their next generation of hardware and software in the stylish shape of Series 2000. Featuring texturemapped, 3D colour graphics providing video quality imagery and 32-channel digital sound, all in real time, the company have taken their next step towards the ultimate VR experience.

The three games headlining this leap are Zone Hunter, Virtuality Boxing and X-Treme Strike. In Zone Hunter you are a 21st century urban warrior in a search and destroy mission played against the clock. You move through a futuristic city where the alien-infested streets and sewers need clearing with a deadly arsenal of weapons.

The task is to reach the genetic labs where hideous mutations are being bred before the first wave of the Empire's elite cyborg warriors make an appearance. Featuring power-ups and graphics that put Virtuality's first generation of titles to shame, Zone Hunter is looking like an extremely attractive two-player shoot-'em-

up.
Virtuality Boxing puts you in the ring against five computer-controlled boxers or, if desired, against a friend. The virtual boxer must climb up through the ranks to win the ultimate accolade - winning the world



Zone Hunter is part of the latest Series 2000 from Virtuality

championships. One of the game's most interesting features is the use of the joystick - throw a punch and it registers on screen as your opponent is smashed in the face.

All damage inflicted is shown, with eyes becoming blackened, gumshields flying out and lips swelling in full texture-mapped graphics as you force your opponent to kiss the canvas.

X-Treme Strike immerses the user in a battle against the forces of the Empire Worlds where a vital core reactor must be destroyed on the planet of Zenon. The game takes you from the asteroid-ridden depths of space and sets you skimming across the surfaces of alien worlds, shooting and blasting all the way.

While none of these scenarios reeks of originality and wouldn't leap to mind as a possible Nobel Peace Prize candidate, the increase in quality from existing arcadebased VR machines is a significant one. The hardware, in the shape of a headset and joystick, have both undergone a dramatic face-lift - the HMD is lighter and less cumbersome, while the space joystick offers a more reactive interface for the player.



An example of the work under way at Matsushita using Division's software, dVS

Division

Profile: British company that specialises in providing hardware and software for professional applications of virtual reality

Division have been busy licensing their equipment to the likes of Silicon Graphics and Virtual Reality Games, a recently formed business that intends to move into the arcade industry alongside the likes of Virtuality.

Last month, Division announced what they claim is the world's fastest commercially available image generation system for VR use. Called the Pixel Planes 6, the system is capable of rendering over five million Gouraud-shaded

triangles per second and over four million Phong-shaded triangles per second with spectacular lighting and photo-texturing.

These specs don't come cheap, with a price tag of \$200,000 for the basic unit. Matsushita Electric Works, a Japanese firm, have one already installed at their headquarters in the land of the

The system will be used in their virtual reality R&D department on a project to improve the home environment by simulating many of a home's basic characteristics including physical structure, aesthetics, acoustics and ventilation.

Exploring

Virtual reality is forever developing and moving forward so Adam Phillips goes back to the future to report on the latest hardware and software in the industry

Silicon Graphics

Profile: Thought by many in the industry to be at the forefront of graphics technology, this American company have used their talents in film, television, architecture and many other industries

Although Silicon Graphics are not suppliers of fully featured, immersive virtual reality systems, the company supply the powerful computer systems such as the RealityEngine and the Onyx graphics machine that form the core of VR systems developed by third parties. The partnership with Division has produced the dVS software environment which provides software tools



TeleVirtual's TV creation, Ratz, is operated in real time by an actor wearing sensors on his face



Love or hate the factious feline, the technology behind it is impressive indeed

for the development of VR applications. The system runs five dedicated servers to manage the functions essential to VR - visualisation, collision detection, 3D tracking, audio and user

The uses for the systems are wide, varying from the entertainment market to avionics. At the University of California, sophisticated computer graphics are allowing the communities worst affected by the 1992 Los Angeles riots and recent earthquakes to play a part in the planning and rebuilding of the areas in which they live. A 3D model of LA, which allows people to visualise proposed changes to their own neighbourhood, is being used by the City Council's urban planning department.

The VR cityscape allows the viewer to "fly"

StrayLight Corp

Profile: American VR company producing for the arcade industry

StrayLight are another company attracting attention with their sorties into the VR entertainment industry. They have developed a system called CyberTron whose most impressive feature is the player's hardware - the head gear and joystick are still present but the user must also strap themself into a large, rotating gyroscope (like that seen in Lawnmower Man) and pivot and tilt the mechanism by using their body weight and inertia. This adds an all important element to the VR process that of real motion.

At present, there are three titles available for the CyberTron system. In Wing-Nuts, you can team up with a mate and take each other on in a head-to-head shoot-'em-up over the surface of a

Cozmik Debris is described as a theme park where the player is taken on a three-minute trip aboard a Spanish galleon through an underground cavern with dancing dolphins. Events take a sinis-



Climb inside CyberTron's gyroscope and...



...take on a friend in Wing-Nuts

ter turn as dead bodies float up to meet you and climaxes in a finale where you are thrust down a psychedelic tunnel reminiscent of the scenes from 2001. Finally, there's Bonk, a 3D Asteroids where the player must destroy large lumps of rock before they collide into the spacecraft.

Evans & Sutherland

Profile: Famous in the industry for their military virtual simulations, this Stateside company have successfully moved into other areas of development



The new ESIG-4000 produces even more jawdropping real time simulators for the military

With so much success in the military market, Evans & Sutherland recently displayed their entertainment wares at the SIGGRAPH show. In the same month, the company further showed their commitment to branching out into new areas by splitting the company into two customer groups - the government sector and the commercial sector.

The former will cover the US government and international business areas and the latter civil aviation, entertainment and educational business interests. E & S have several systems on offer for the discerning buyer - the 2000, 3000 and the recently introduced top of the range 4000 which forms the backbone of E & S's simulators.

Due to the pricing of these systems, the cheaper Liberty range (100, 200 and 400) was introduced at a mere \$100,000, with the Loch Ness Virtual Adventure set to invade theme parks this year. With high calibre graphics and fluid real time animation, Evans & Sutherland are set to be just as dominant in the entertainment industry as they have been in the military arena.

redili



After the riots and earthquakes, the citizens of Los Angeles are being helped by virtual reality to rebuild the city

through the city streets in real time using SG technology. Buildings have been reproduced to exact levels of detail and the photo-realistic modelling even includes graffiti on the walls.

Bill Jepson, director of computing at the UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, explains the reasoning behind the project: "The idea is to involve people more fully in the urban planning process.

"The 3D model we have built using Silicon Graphics technology allows the City Council to introduce concepts graphically, in an easy-tounderstand format, instead of using complicated jargon normally associated with town planning. The model has helped create a better understanding between the technicians, the engineers, the planners and the people who live in the riottorn areas."

Meanwhile, over at NASA's Ames Research centre, researchers are using a VR system that draws on data gathered from satellite. Using two stereoscopic screens and headphones, users are able to look around the surface of distant planets including Mars.

Back in this country, if you've been watching the BBC news over the last year, it's hard not to notice the new look of its virtual reality TV studio which relies heavily on the use of 3D graphics. Using Silicon Graphics technology, everything in the studio other than the two newscasters is computer generated, including the

VERSATILITY

This allows the broadcasting cooperation to save money due to less space and crew being used and allows time saving versatility with the computer operated environment.

Soap opera producers are also looking towards virtual sets to cut costs. The problem is

that soaps are usually in production week in, week out, eating a substantial amount out of the budget due to the prices of studio hire over such a long period of time. VR could change all that.

The presence of the newsreaders and actors themselves could be in jeopardy within the next few years as US-based SimGraphics, another partner in the SG chain, have produced hardware and software that can create virtual actors - VActors.

These computer-generated characters are animated live by the movements and voices of actual actors. The software provides several sensory input devices and gesture recognition facilities to create a unique look and feel that can be used in interactive live entertainment for television presentation or as a means of producing computer animation sequences.

Indeed, TeleVirtual, the holders of the VActors licence in the UK, have already shown the system to the BBC who were highly impressed. If you're a fan - or an interested parental viewer - of either Alive and Kicking or Children's BBC, you can't have failed to notice Ratz, the computer-generated cat that pops up regularly throughout each show.

Created by TeleVirtual, Ratz exemplifies the system perfectly. The actor wears a sensory headset and controlls the feline's movements in real time - a versatile and highly useful tool for the television industry.



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ex has been with us since the beginning. Celebrated, repressed, enjoyed, frowned upon, analysed, suppressed and loved - the subject matter has always had a wide ranging effect on all people throughout the ages.

With each new medium created in society, the sexual act has always found a platform to help express itself - the printing press introduced erotic literature to the masses, photography gave birth to erotic pictures, film moved these images and now, with the coming of the computer age and more specifically, virtual reality, the normally hands-off, voyeuristic experience is going interactive with full blown 32-bit colour, photorealistic graphics, digital sound... and teledildonics.

Over the last few years, the availability of sex-related material for computers has increased in leaps and bounds all over the world. Explicit images and video footage can be pulled off bulletin boards at the touch of a button now, causing an upheaval of moral panic in Britain.

With new technology beginning to enable the user to involve their bodies as well as their minds, the scoffing hilarity of making love to a computer is becoming a reality.

Teledildonics, erototronics or cybersex, or whatever name you want to give it, is simply a means whereby the user can involve themselves fully in an computerised, interactive world and, ideally, act out any sexual fantasy they

The main components required to produce the experience are a headmounted display unit for the visuals and a full-sensory body data suit.

SAFE SEX

With Aids and other sex-related diseases scaring people away from promiscuity, cybersex is seen as the ultimate in safe sex.

Others see the benefits as more than that - people with disabilities who have little opportunity of sexual contact, could enjoy some semblance of a normal sex life. Teledildonics could also be used in sex therapy to aid patients to overcome their fears and psychoses towards the sexual act.

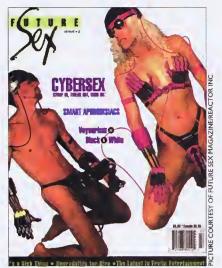
American magazine Future Sex believes like many others that teledildonics will eventually end up as a full blown reality and better than the real thing.

Indeed, the virtual reality industry is taking teledildonics seriously – Sadie Plant, a cyberfeminist, wrote a report on teledildonics for the recent VR conference held at Warwick University.

In an interview with Loaded Magazine,



A suggested line-up of the hardware necessary for the most basic of teledildonic experiences



Cybersex - the downfall of the most intimate of human communications or a genuinely useful and important technological development? Time will tell

to wonder where all this will lead. Future Sex predicts that over the next 200 years, the system will develop into either a multi-user or a solo environment with a seamless physical interface and full visual and audio capabilities.

They believe that way off in the future, these systems will be surgically implanted to include brain-enhancing chemicals and ultimately, the virtual experience will be better than the real thing.

All this excitement and debate just leaves one burning question - is this really going to improve people's lives or simply isolate people from each other

According to Mike Saenz, publisher of the infamous erotic software package Virtual Valerie for the Apple Mac, we want to become more cut off from each other.

In Future Sex, he says: "People want to remove excess human contact. Especially as the planet becomes overpopulated. They want that distance, and I think that

ybersex

As VR continues its steady rise through all avenues of society, it was only a matter of time before sex became part of the virtual agenda. Adam Phillips reports

she says: "The wonderful thing about cybersex is that everybody who has been marginalised or oppressed will have the chance to realise their desires.

"I think women will become far more confident once they've been able to experiment in cyberspace and, as a consequence, they'll be far more demanding of real life sexual partners. Mr 15-pints-a-night doesn't stand a

With all this conceptual discussion, the only thing holding humankind back from disappearing from reality all together is the technology.

While graphic capabilities are advancing at lightning speed, the suit is a harder problem to resolve altogether - the basic principle is to use tiny sensors to let off heat and vibrations and air bladders that apply pressure to the skin as a form of tactile response.

The pictures shown here are of a basic kit that cover the main erogenous zones of both female and male. Although these are merely speculative works produced on a computer, this kind of equipment is well on the way to completion. Meanwhile back on earth, one has VR sex could actually give them that."

Hearing a statement like that may sound depressing but with the one-onone relationship between solo participant and technology becoming more and more popular, it may well be a valid, if sad, point of view.

What we do know for certain is that if you think the press and public outcry concerning sex issues is loud now, wait till cybersex blooms into a full blown industry, then the talking will turn to shouting and, as usual, the enticement of ever more exciting technology will probably win the day.

• We would like to hear your opinions on the issues raised in this feoture. Send ony thoughts and comments to the usual address for the ottention of Adam Phillips

 Special thanks to Future Sex, a magazine specialising in all things cyber and erotic, and Reactor Inc, creators af the best selling Virtual Volerie and Donna Matrix titles, for the use of their concept pictures



A mock-up of the graphics that would be displayed in the head-mounted display unit

Don't miss...

THE 1994

Bristol & London

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There will be three prize draws at each show (11am, 1pm and 3pm), for a £25 voucher to spend at the stand of your choice on any item...

BACK ISSUES

If you've been following a series and missed the last one, or you were looking forward to the next issue but can't find it at the newsagents, you'll know just how disappointing it is to miss out on an issue. Well, never fear!

You'll find various back issues on sale at bargain prices at the Atari ST User and Atari ST Review stand.



Who's there

The leading ST publishers and dealers attending include:

- Atari Workshop renowned as the ST hardware specialists. They've promised to bring along enough hard drives so that they don't sell out this time! Also, see Cubase Audio here.
- Best Electronics all the way from the US of A! Mr Atari, Brad Koda, will have every spare part imaginable along with some delightful Atari memorabilia.
- CGS Computerbild Digital Arts' number one international distributor! DA's Layout, DA's Vector Pro, DA's Picture and all the rest...
- Compo Software the biggest Atari specialist apart from Atari itself. Compo expect to have That's Write 3, That's Address 2, MusiCom 2, TrakCom, NeoDesk 4 and lots more − including software upgrades for your current Compo products. Computer repairs and upgrades will be carried out on the spot they'll fit anything you buy at the show!
 - Europress Enterprise meet Atari ST Review's editor at the London Show!
- Goodman International and Merlin PD, two of the main Atari public domain and shareware libraries.
- Titan Designs it's rumoured that there will be stocks of the Graffiti Genlock available...
- And yes, you will be able to see Atari's world-beating Jaguar games console as well!

THE LATEST MAGAZINES

Save yourself a trip down to
the newsagents and make a
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Previous success

Here's the report on the last London Atari Show that took place at Alexandra Palace.

"Following on from the previous month, over 600 Atari owners took the opportunity to see the latest products. Crowds gathered around 16/32 Systems to see Xenomorph 2, a superb 3-D rendering program, and Prism Paint 2, possibly the most powerful paint package released on the ST.

Videomaster Falcon also generated a great deal of interest on the HiSoft stand. Using a cartridge interface and the Falcon's 16-bit inputs and outputs, the program is capable of digitising video at up to 25 frames per second, in 64 shades of grey, and recording high quality audio.

Released on the day of the show,
Studio Photo, a powerful image retouching and processing package, won many
friends on the Compo stand while Club
Cubase showed a final test version of
Steinburg's Cubase Audio.

With products on view from companies such as System Solutions, Titan Designs, ST Club, CGS and Prospero, along with bargains from Golden Image and Warpzone PDL, this event promises much for the future."

Tickets

- Tickets cost £5, £3 for entry after 2pm
- Children under 16 are free when accompanied by an adult
- Atari ST computers free if being brought to the Compo stand for a repair or upgrade!

Bristol show

To be held at the Hilton International Hotel, Bristol, Saturday July 30, 10am to 5pm.

London show

Taking place at the Novotel, Hammersmith, West London, Sunday July 31, 10am to 5pm.

Maps and detailed instructions will be included next month

That's the right Andrew Wright previews a address

powerful software combo -That's Write 3 and That's Address 2

n the upper echelons of Atari word processing, That's Write 2 has carved itself a niche pretty close to the top with its WYSIWYG screen display, excellent output and high end features

That's Write 3, soon to be released in the UK, brings with it a redesigned interface and a bundle of new, even more powerful features.

Version 2 enabled users to have more than one window open at once and the



That's Write - multiple windows and a brand new interface

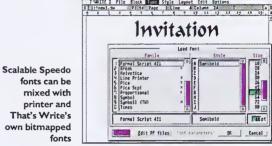
same holds true for version 3, along with additional status and macro windows if required. In each window there's also a new button for hiding or recalling the ruler and the right button now produces a pop-up menu with four main options and scrolling sub-menus, making dozens of commands instantly available.

The most obvious change to That's Write 3 is the use of Speedo format scalable fonts alongside existing That's Write fonts and internal printer fonts.

This easily makes That's Write the most flexible of all the Atari-based word processors when it comes to choosing a typeface, particularly as SpeedoGDOS itself isn't required. That's Write rasterises the fonts and creates its own bitmaps for the screen.

A good selection of fonts is supplied, including Dutch, Swiss, Symbol and Formal Script and new fonts can be added, though not that easily.

The resulting printed output is superb, particularly on 300dpi printers such as lasers and inkjets. The use of scalable fonts



doesn't slow the program down in normal use, though loading and rasterising new fonts can be sluggish even on fast computers.

Glossary-style macros are a new feature and an immense productivity bonus. For example, to write this article I defined the words "That's Write" as a simple macro that could be recalled by typing "TW" and expanded by hitting a button. Several things have been improved in the new version. Block marking, previously achieved by rubber-banding, is now much more logical and the same as most

That's Address 2

This is a brand new product - the first version never saw the light of day in the UK.

It is the perfect companion for a powerful word processor like That's Write, particularly as the latter is increasingly being used in small businesses and by professionals at home.

That's Address is essentially a dedicated name and address database management system that has links directly to That's Write to make correspondence many times easier.

For example, you can export a name and address to a That's Write document where it will be laid out in the correct format for a letter. Not only are the



Exporting straight into That's Write 3

name and address exported but the chosen salutation and sign off can be placed in the document too.

That's Address comprises two versions, one a standalone program and the other a desk accessory.

The standalone version also acts as the configuration program where you can alter the four user-definable popup fields and add or remove city codes and

The accessory takes up a lot of RAM -500k or so by my calculations - so it will only be practical on 1Mb machines and even then you'll be struggling to run it as an accessory alongside programs like That's Write.

The number of entries in the database is limited only by hard disk space. Compo have several thousand names in their customer records - but as only the index is stored in memory, data access doesn't slow down noticeably as the database gets bigger.

That's Address uses NoSystem and the interface matches That's Write so well, you'd think the programs had been made for each other - which indeed they were.

The options include that of specifying a small window or large window when used as an accessory, in order to be able to view documents behind it.

That's Address is a unique tool for

businesses and those dealing with correspondence abroad, mainly, I suspect, because Compo are an international company and needed the program to maintain their own records.

To set up the program you tell the program where the machine that it's running on is situated. This helps ensure that the post-codes and dialing codes are correctly formatted according to the national requirements.

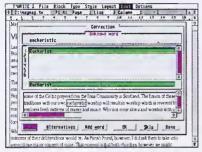
AUTOMATIC

It affects international telephone dialing codes too - move to France and the French telephone number will automatically have the 010 dropped, for example. A globetrotter's delight! Everything is completely automatic once it has been properly set up - if you write a letter abroad, the country is added automatically.

Data can be added at any stage and records amended or deleted as necessary. Even if you make a mistake, there's a safety net whereby you can undelete records that have disappeared.

To kick off a record, you have to select a key word rather than the traditional last name of the subject. To some extent this forces you to think logically about how the database is to be strucother word processors, while a useful addition is the ability to copy a marked block to the search and replace fields.

The spelling checker has at last developed some teeth. Instead of the somewhat unimaginative one in version 2, the new checker now displays each word in context so you can see what the original meaning was and then comes up with alternatives and lets you skip the word or add it to a user-definable dictionary.

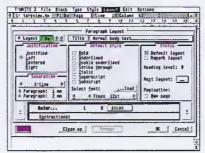


The spelling checker shows words in context

The paragraph layout dialogue has more features too, including the ability to define what the following paragraph will be and define header levels for the outliner

Export facilities are much better than before. That's Write 2 is particularly poor at importing and exporting files in other word processor formats - it won't even load or save First Word Plus files, for example - so it's nice to see this problem addressed in release 3.

Although only ASCII import and export are possible, there are plenty of options for compatibility with other platforms, including the Amiga, Apple, Next, OS/2. DOS and Windows versions of ASCII as well as native versions



The new paragraph layout dialogue

with or without line feeds and carriage returns.

In the same way, the Mail Merge feature has been significantly improved with support for That's Address via the XACC clipboard or directly from a comma delimited file. With this level of functionality and the powerful business-oriented features, That's Write 3 will certainly help keep Compo at the top of the Atari wordprocessor league.

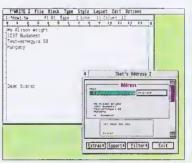
Many important Average enhancements and superb Appalling quality output. EASE OF USE With the usual quality Compo Average Bad manual, there should be few Appalling problems. **VALUE FOR MONEY** Excellent ft's not cheap in Atari Average Bad terms, but worth every Ronalling Product: That's Write 3 Supplier: Compo Software, Unit 3, Green Farm, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon PE17 2PF Telephone: 0487 3582 Price: £129 Configuration: Any Atari with 1Mb or more

A whole new interface

Compo have developed a new common interface called NoSystem for all their new products including That's Write and That's Address.

It contains two main elements, the NoLook user interface, which provides smart colour, 3D dialogues that can be moved around the screen, and the Flexiprint printing

NoSystem means that the same code can be shared by multiple Compo applications whether the system is multitasking or not, thus saving memory, making development work simpler and enabling Compo programs to share a common "look and feel" whatever machine they run on, The new "look and feel" of NoLook from the ST/STE to the TT and Falcon. NoSystem relies



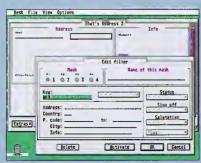
on a common library that is loaded from the root directory at boot time and which can be configured in various ways using a special utility.

tured but it can be strange deciding just what keyword an entry is to appear under. In the end I found myself just inserting the surname if I couldn't think of a decent keyword.

Incidentally, to recall records all you have to do is type the first two letters (or more) of the keyword and a pop-up dialogue shows all the matching records as well as those alphabetically close to it.

More complex filtering is possible too, using the mask facility. Four different masks can be stored and recalled using the relevant function keys, with every field able to be included in the mask

There are four user-definable fields that you can use for your own purposes. They provide pop-up lists for any



Setting a filter or mask in That's Address



Configuring the data field options in That's Address

purpose, though the recommended setup includes salutation (Dear..., Dear Mr..., My Little Kitten... or whatever) and sign off (Yours sincerely, and so on). These can be altered however and the export format edited to reflect the new purpose. Each record can have a note attached in the form of a text file with 65-character line length.

PRINTING LABELS

That's Address uses the Flexiprint system to print things like mailing labels directly from the accessory and it can mail merge with That's Write 3 without creating an intermediate data file. If data is to be saved or exported, it can be saved in a

proprietary format or the universal comma delimited ASCII format for exchange with other programs or computers.

Modem support is also included -That's Address will actually dial a telephone number for you if it is correctly hooked up to your modem and you have a telephone attached. What more could you want from an address manager?

BOTTOM	LINE	
FEATURES Fast, powerful data retrieval when and where you need it.	Excellent Bood Average Bad Appalling	
EASE OF USE Hard to say without a look at the manual though it's not entirely intuitive.	Excellent Good Rverage Bad Appalling	
VALUE FOR MONEY Good value if you want an address database.	Excellent Good Rverage Bad Appalling	
Product: That's Address 2 Supplier: Compo, Unit 3, Green Farm Abbots Ripton,		

Telephone: 0487 3582

Price: £50 Configuration: Any Atari with 1Mb or mor

orse racing became popular in Stuart times and was soon dubbed the "sport of kings" due to its royal connections.

Since then, it has become a mult-

million pound industry with many of its participants turning into household names, such as Red Rum, the first horse to pull off a Grand National hat trick and Lester Piggot, who was Britain's youngest race winner at the age of 12.

Of course, the televised coverage of



Oracle has a simple text menu system. A GEM interface would have been much more flexible though

Want to improve your winning chances at the race track? Darren Evans tries his luck with the horse-tipping program Oracle

races at some of today's famous race-courses has helped to bring the "sport of kings" to the general public and thou-sands of betting offices all around the country are now raking in (and paying out) millions every year.

Many of you out there may well enjoy a bet now and then and you will no doubt realise that there is no such thing as a sure fire winner, even though the odds given by the bookies will show which is the favourite to win.

PREDICTING

If you rely on the actual odds given by the bookies as the sole means of predicting a winner then you will know that this is not a very profitable method as constantly betting on favourites will roughly give you a 33 per cent rate of

Nor will the odds give you a very good return on your investment and, as a general rule, you can say that the worse the odds, the more likely the horse is to win and the smaller the return on your

This means that 67 per cent of the time a horse with better odds than the favourite wins a race. The trick is to identify this type of horse as often as possible.

There are people who make a good

living going to races and betting on horses. These "professional punters" are not in possession of mystical powers of prediction, nor are they blessed with incredible luck.

They are ordinary people who are aware of the many influencing variables related to every race and whose betting habits are bound by simple statistical

Oracle uses such calculations and also takes into account many of the variables known to the professionals, so It's an ideal tool for the less experienced.

Oracle is also educational. It assumes

no experience with betting or racing and is therefore an ideal introduction into this fascinating sport. I certainly learnt a lot, when previously I knew nothing about

time it is to start. You will also find lots of other information about each horse including past performance in other races right down to how old the horse is. Oracle first displays advice about what races you should not consider, such as those where sufficient information on a horse's performance in its most recent races is not available. This process ultimately leaves you with a couple of races per meeting which are deemed worthy of Oracle's

continued scrutiny.
You are then taken through a series of questions in which you are requested to enter information gleaned from the pages of the racing paper you are using.

This is where the first problem with the program appears. Many ST users will be used to menus and the mouse, in other

betting on horses. There are no wild claims about Oracle being a massive money-making utility. It's simply a very good way of increasing the chances of predicting a winner and is an improvement over the "betting on favourites"

method with its 33per cent success rate. In fact, the author claims that, simply by rating horses, jockeys and trainers on their past performance – or "form" – alone, gave a 45 per cent success rate. Much better than 33 per cent.

Two excellent papers are The Sporting Life and The Racing Post. Both of these are available from most newsagents and give extensive information on the race course, horse, jockey and trainer, among

Armed with the appropriate paper, you then decide which race to bet on. Each race is listed in the paper according to what racecourse it is held at and what

ORACLE PRO PRACLE RACING SYSTEM (c) D.W.S.S. 1991. COURSE LIST FLAT RACING EXTEX COURSE HUMBER

The first thing you must do is tell Oracle which race couse you are interested in

words, GEM programs. But Oracle is a purely TOS-based program, meaning it simply displays text and receives informa-tion from the keyboard. The questions about each race are wilt into stages, each consisting of several questions which require data. It's easy to edit an immediate mistake while entering the data, simply by using the Backspace key.

If, however, you realise you have made an error on an earlier question in the stage, you have to wade through any remaining questions to get to the end of that stage where all the data entered is displayed and you are asked if there are any errors.

CUMBERSOME

If there are, it's back to entering all that stage's data again. Such a linear approach to data input is rather cumbersome and it would be nice at least to have a method of going back to specific questions to correct entries.

This is especially off-putting for those not familiar with the racing papers' infor-mation tables, as they will have to search through the information again. Hopefully, the author will address this problem in later versions with a more intuitive

Some of the papers also have informa-

eed out

tion related to specific races on different pages. So for each race meeting, say at Carlisle, you will need to refer to a table showing leading jockeys and trainers for that particular course. This is nearly always on a different page It is therefore advisable to arrange your paper so that such tables of information are readily at hand.

First time users may well find that from start to finish, the entire Oracle process for one race can take over an hour, depending on how many horses you wish Oracle to rate.

As you become more familiar with both the program and the information in the racing papers, the time required for each race should be reduced.

Once you have entered the relevant

ORACLE PAG ORACLE RACIAS SYSTEM (c) 0.W.S.S. 1991 FOR THE PROGRAM TO BE OCCURATE YOU MUST: IGNORE ALL RACES FOR CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS OR AMATEUR JACKEYS, (2)....ELIMINATE MAY BACE TO MATCH MAY OF THE FIRST FIVE, SO THE BETTING
FROM CAST. OR MAY WAS MISH TO MATE, MAS 1955 THAN THOSE BACE RESULTS. CO....ELIMINATE ANY NACE IN MITCH ANY OF THE FIRST FIVE IN THE BETTING FREEZEAST. OR ONY YOU WISH TO MATE NAME NO ONTING (SEE MARRA). IT IS BEST TO TERORE. (1) MAY BASE OF LESS THAN SID SHOPERS CHOOK BOOST. CZ).. GRY BACE OF MORE THAN INCLUDE BRINGERS CHAMPERIOS ETC). DO YOU HISE TH ABANDON THIS MACE HEETING CY/ED?

certain horses for certain races.

Also considered is the significance of the opinions of the private handicappers, the bookies and any indications of anything it considers unusual or relevant

in its database with regard to this race.

As you can see, a lot of work is done by
Oracle and much of it will be confusing to

work? After giving the program to a good friend of mine with an intermediate Oracle uses a lot of statistical infromation to knowledge of horse racing, he reported a notable improvement in the average number of winners he was identifying. In one particular instance covering ten winners. Many aspectsa of a race, including the season it is held are given statistical values

races, Oracle identified eight winners.

As any reasonably experienced race goer knows, "inside knowledge" is all part of the racing game. Oracle uses many of the techniques to identify winners which are not widely known to the average betting person.

This is evident from the questions you are asked whilst using Oracle. Also, the program is constantly being updated, with more and more "tricks" used by the professionals being added as they are found and tested. To ensure the database



makes an analysis of the race course and individual race, using information such as the going (state of ground), date, type of race, prize, distance and how far from the race meeting each trainer is based, as well as why he is at that day's meeting. Oracle also assesses the current and previous form (performance in other races) of each horse in the race, including its previous performance (if any) at this course, distance, today's weight, the effect (if any) of the draw, its stall position and whether the horse is a beaten favourite or wearing blinkers as well as many other factors too numerous to mention.

It then considers the jockeys' and trainers' record at this course and their average performance, current performance, performance this season and over the last five years while looking for any oddities it may have identified in their selection of

ORACLE RACING SYSTEM (c) D.M.S.S. 1981 FAVOURITE STRTISTICS RT CARLISLE AS OF 18.85,1994 SRMER 34x 6000/SOFT 20x 33X 6800/F1RK 35X ## 6097 SOFT 6609/SOFT 6609 6607/SOFT FIBM
BY 607 200 200 SOFT 6609/SOFT 6609/SOFT 100 FIBM
BY 607 200 200 SOFT 6609/SOFT 6609 6600/FIBM FIBM
FIRST 607 SOFT 6609/SOFT EXTER SEASONS PERCENTAGE

As you progress through Oracle's question stages given various bits of advice bits of advice on what to look out for in a race

no prior knowledge of horse racing, I was amazed at the number of variables which can affect the outcome of a race.

There are professional punters out there who make a living at the racecourse. They are aware of all the variables which can improve on the 33 per cent success rate of merely betting on favourites.

SUCCESS

That is the whole concept behind Oracle. It isn't infallible and much of your success will, in part, be due to the combi-nation of your experience and the advice given by Oracle.

It's not a magical prediction program, it's a guide to identifying bets that will provide a good return on your

The manual which came with Oracle states that you do no need any experience of horse racing to use the program. This is true but you must bear in mind that any mistakes made in entering data due to lack of experience with reading the racing papers' information, will obviously lead to incorrect results, so make sure your data entered is accurate.

So, the big question is, does Oracle

there are also monthly update disks which are available for £25.

At £99.95, I personally feel Oracle will be of an expensive investment for someone with little knowledge of racing. However, those familiar with racing and betting will probably recognise Oracle's usefulness and may well see it as a worthwile buy.

BOTTOM LINE **FEATURES** Excellent Not exactly feature packed Average but it is packed with useful Appalling information on horse racing. **EASE OF USE** Excellent The text-based input is cumbersome and would Bad Appalling beneift from a GEM interface **VALUE FOR MONEY** Excellent Average Bad Appalling May be pricey for the newcomer to racing, but will interest experienced punters Product: Oracla Supplier: ESP Software Telephone: 0702 600557 Price: £99.95

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"Zool is probably the best platform title you're ever likely to see on the ST. Neat graphics coupled with a brilliant gameplay make the antics of Zool a winner from start to finish."

Gamer, Atari ST User November 1991



ith recent developments in modem technology, the dedicated fax machine can be emulated by your average Atari computer with appropriate modem and software.

Now, thanks to the Falcon's much talked about DSP chip, and voice mail packages being developed at HiSoft and Compo Software, another common office device - the answer machine looks set to be challenged by computer

But what exactly is voice mail, how does it work and what advantages does it give you over a normal answer machine?

Voice mail is one of those terms which can mean different things to different people. When talking about answer machines, it's best described as a voice recording system which, through prerecorded verbal prompts and recognition of dialling tones, allows callers to navigate their way through the different areas of a voice mail system as set up by the owner.

EXPERIENCE

You may already have experienced such a system. Many businesses with several different departments have such systems installed. When you call, you hear a voice saying something like: "Press number I for administration. Press 2 for sales department. Press 3 for personnel," and so on.

You would be forgiven for thinking that a voice mail package would be restricted to these big businesses, as it is very complex to set up and costly. This couldn't be further from the truth. The HiSoft product, for instance, should cost less than £90.

This is due to the fact that the Falcon already has the technology built in for handling most of the complex processes of a voice mail system. So the most expensive portion of a voice mail package - the hardware interface between phone line and your Falcon - has relatively simple and low cost electronics.

How is all this achieved at such a price then? Well, let's look at exactly what the Falcon has to do to receive and record a

First, the phone line connected to the Falcon will ring. Detecting a ringing line connected to a computer has been

available yet

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old 8-bit Ataris. Many a modem owner will know that the serial port on a computer has a ring detect pin which signals the computer that someone's

So, there's no extra hardware required on the part of the Falcon, as it already has a serial port as standard.

Next, the Falcon has to answer the ringing line. Again, this is easily done through simple circuitry in the interface, the serial port and software control.

Once the call has been answered, the Falcon must then be able to play the prerecorded sampled voice of the owner, listen for the telephone keys being pressed and then analyse and act upon those keys and also record any verbal message from the caller.

All these are, again, easily achieved by the internal hardware of the Falcon. Playing samples is no problem and has been used in many ST games for some

Recording a sample is also simple. The

where the vast flexibility lies. Once a frequency has been identified, it's then just a case of going to a specific routine according to whatever frequency has been detected.

Of course, time and development costs will restrict what features will be incorporated into the software, but in theory anything you can do with the mouse, joystick or keyboard, you can also do via the phone handset (though it's rather more cumbersome).

With this software control, the advantages voice mail systems have over a standard answer phone soon become apparent. The majority of answer phones work with an audio tape and a simple message, informing the caller to start speaking after the tone.

With voice mail, things become much more powerful. As mentioned before, you can set up separate "mailboxes" for different people in your household or

Each person can have their own pass-

Voice mail technology will soon be available for the Falcon. But just what is it and what can it do for you?

CIKI

StereoMaster and Replay sampling cartridges have been doing it for years. On the Falcon, it's even simpler because you don't really need a cartridge. Simply plug a microphone into the built-in socket at the back of the Falcon and use the DSP to sample the audio.

Possibly the most complex part of the process, analysing the frequencies of the tones, is a breeze thanks to the DSP, which merely needs to be programmed to do just that.

All that is required then is for the voice mail software to act on whatever frequencies are detected when the caller presses

the phone keys. The software side of the package is possible since the early days of the good Voice mail on the cheap Voxmail is a shareware voice mail Here you can convert sound sample files. program which is currently available as This means that you can use the many shareware. However, the hardware is not samples which are available in the public

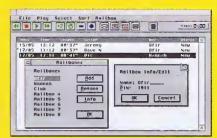


First look at the HiSoft system

Although both the software and hardware are still undergoing fine improvements at HiSoft, we managed to get a sneak look at how the software "front end" is shaping up.



The many features provided by the software are what make voice mail so much more versatile than your average answer phone



You can set up multiple mailboxes for different people within your household or office, each with their own personal access code

word for accessing their private messages, with various features for maintaining their mailboxes, such as deleting messages and the like.

This makes life much easier and more efficient in a household with more than one person, as you don't have to wade through other people's messages to find

ones left for you. And unlike a standard answer phone, which generally only has one generic message, the voice mail software allows you to have multiple messages to cover many possible situations.

At different times of the day, as indicated by the Falcon's internal clock, you

"Compo's voice mail system is targeted at the professional user and the busy home," said Neal O'nions.

"By professional, I mean someone who has a Falcon and is also working from home or a small office. For our professional kind of user, telephone management can be a real problem as the home/office can often be left unstaffed during the day.

"Voice mail allows for easy and flexible message changing. For instance, you can program the system to give out one contact number between certain hours, another later on, then after 5:30pm, only accept messages."

Ofir described the HiSoft system as being aimed at the home user and small business person alike. Citing a fictional two-person household, he explained the advantages over a normal answer

"Take a couple sharing a phone line -Jack and Mary. You can phone Jack and leave him a personal message which Mary can't listen to. You can also check whether Jack was expecting your call and left you a message.

"When Jack wants, he can check his voice mail and listen to new messages, or



could have different messages, each starting with "Good morning" or "Good afternoon" for example.

You could also have discreet messages to cover impromptu situations. You could have a specific message for someone you are expecting to call, such as: "If this is Mike, press number 9," at which point the message for Mike would be heard.

For business use, all this flexibility is invaluable. If you find yourself out of the office at a different time every day, you can easily plan what messages to leave for callers according to the day's itinerary, such as what time you expect to be back in the office or alternative numbers for callers to contact you at.

VERSATILE

The list of potential uses to which you can adapt a voice mail system are almost limited only by the imagination of the software programmer.

As mentioned earlier, HiSoft and Compo Software are currently working on voice mail systems for the Falcon. We spoke to Ofir Gal, Atari software developer and the man behind the HiSoft voice mail software system and also to Neal O'nions of Compo Software.

We asked them a little about the voice mail packages they are working on.

mark them for later attention. He can also do this from a remote phone." Remote access to the system will be a standard feature in both the HiSoft and Compo packages. This means you can call up the system from outside using your private access codes to control the computer and replay messages.

With the Falcon able to emulate some of today's essential office equipment so easily, an interesting possibility as regards future communication applications arises. At the start of this article, it was mentioned that the average Atari computer could be used in place of a dedicated fax machine.

With the answer machine soon to be emulated on the Falcon, we may soon see a move towards a highly integrated communications machine.

It is quite feasible to combine all current communications applications into one package.

Such a combined communication system for receiving and sending faxes and recording messages, as well as general use as a terminal for logging on to such systems as the Internet, would make for an extremely powerful communications tool.

The DSP in the Falcon is also theoretically capable of emulating the hardware in a modem and we may yet see the modem succumb to Falcon software emulation.

here has been a lot of fashionable talk lately of a developing "telecottage industry", with workers foregoing the dubious pleasures of daily commuting in favour of a modem link between their desktop computers and their employers.

I have heard stories of Far Eastern airport schedules being controlled from the Scottish highlands, but my experience of early morning rush hour traffic suggests that this new way of life is still far from the norm. So far indeed, that I could not think of anyone I knew to whom the description of telecommuter could be applied - until I met Jeff Minter, that is.

Now those of you whose misspent youth included endless hours wiggling a joystick to move colourful sprites across a games screen will instantly recognise

leff Minter is one of the cult authors of the shoot-'em-up scene, being responsible for a series of some of the bestloved golden oldies: remember Gridrunner, Defender II, Matrix, Revenge of the Mutant Camels or Andes

REVIVED FORTUNES

On the other hand, miserable business types engrossed in spreadsheets and databases will probably ask: "Jeff who? I thought this series was about serious users of Atari computers." Well, this is serious. So serious in fact that leff Minter may well enter history as the man who revived the fortunes of Atari Corporation

It is no secret that Atari have staked almost everything on the success of their revolutionary new games console, the Jaguar. You may not have had the chance to see one on these shores yet but in the US they are already selling in their tens of thousands.

But like the most technically advanced desktop computers, the Jaguar won't impress anybody without decent software to match its specifications. Games consoles are vitally dependent for their success on the stunning new games that everybody has heard about and want to

Now guess who happens to have written just such a game for the Jaguar? Jeff



Wild cats pretty shee



In his continuing search for people who make their Ataris pay their way, Günter Minnerup visits a man who could hold the future of Atari Corporation in his hands

> Minter, of course. And the game? It is called Tempest The rave reviews and previews written about Tempest dubbed by Gamesmaster magazine the "game of the decade" - have really got people going out and screaming for Jaguar consoles. Just a few minutes' play convinced me that this was indeed true arcade quality brought into the living room: incredibly smooth truecolour effects, a hypnotic soundtrack, fast and furious action and supreme playability.

> No wonder the Tramiels in Sunnyvale think the world of Jeff Minter, considering the effect his code is having on the value of Atari shares!

> But back to the telecottage and telecommuting bit. For Jeff is not living it up in California's sunshine or old London town, but in a remote Welsh valley. And I mean really remote: even detailed instructions given over the telephone had not quite prepared me for the Odyssey around narrow country lanes which finally came to an end outside what must

Trying to get Flossie to sit still for the photographer be one of the most isolated pubs in Britain.

I don't normally ask any further questions once I find a pub, but since my mission was to track down Jeff Minter's cottage another phone call was needed. A few minutes and another bend in the road later, and I finally arrived at a small white washed house separated from a mountain stream by a patch of grass. Outside, on that patch of grass, stood two sheep about which more will be said

RURAL RETREAT

Jeff moved out into the Welsh countryside six years ago, and rarely leaves his rural retreat these days, except for family visits and flights to Atari in California. Nor does he need to, for everything a programmer could want is right there around the cottage.

There are, of course, telephone lines even in darkest Wales so there is no problem keeping Sunnyvale supplied with chunks of newly written code without ever going anywhere near a Post

As for computers, it is difficult to think of a model that it not to be found in corner somewhere, between the collection of arcade machines and gadgets of all descriptions.

The obligatory Windows PC is used mainly for access to CD-ROMs and access to the modem. There's a battered old Mac Plus, an Amiga, some older collector's items and, of course, Ataris.

The Atari logo is everywhere, even on the doorbell (a sticker in case you wondered), and certainly on the Falcon and the TT. Pride of place, however, goes to the two Jaguars, one of them hooked up to a television, the other to the TT, Jeff's main development platform.



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UTILITIES

UTA01: THE HITCHIKERS UTILITIES, which includes a I HE HTCHIKERS UTILITIES, which includes a document displayer, BOOTDENTE, selent which drive to boot from. BOOTWAIT, boot up both the ST and hard drive at the same time. BSSS, store boot sectors. CUSTOM, allows you to create disks of almost any format. DISKAT, database your collection and many

normac DiskAT, Gatabase your collection and many more. With full manual.

UTA02: STICKER 3, create labels for your disks with a selection of icons that printout onto the label.

UTA03: FASTBASE DEMO, ICON, change your desktop icons. HEADSTART, auto boot any type of program from an auto folder. ON SCHEDULE, work schedule

an auto folder. ON SCHEDÜLE, work schedule program with bells a very good printout routine.

UTAOS: SUPERCARD V1.3, an index card database, easy to use and very fast search feature. Comes with a database of game cheats. CHEF, an electronic cookbook with 300 recipes each with cooking instructions and ingredients.

UTAI9: TIC BOOK, an excellent on line address book and date reminder which holds up to 500 names and addresses. Has a good printout routine. DATABASE, a good database construction kit. SUPERBOOT, allow you to create custom bootup disk. TARADESK, a good PD desktop replacement program. COCKTAIL SELECTOR, a database of cocktails (600+).

(600+).

UTAOS: FASTCOPY 3, A-COPY, PRO-COPY and several other copying programs and utilities. ZAPMENU, a great way of faunching programs from the desktop.

ARCSYS, one of the better arc progs. PACK ICE, the

ARCSYS, one of the better arc progs. PACK ICE, the other arc program.

UTA28: AWARD MAKER, a useful program for producing award certificates. Design your own or use one of the I20 already on the disk.

UTA34: DB MASTER I, this bas got to be the best answer to your database problems, design and configure your own. Very easy to use.

UTA36: DATA EDITOR, enter your data and the program turns it into easy to read graphs. PIE, BUBBLE, OPPOSED BARS, FLOATING BAR, 3D BAR, STAR BAR graphs can be produced, stored and updated at any time. Many students have used this program for their course work.

any time. Many students have used this program for their course work.

UTA37: WG DATA, another database, but for younger users to leam how to construct and use a database. For the 11+. DATABASE CONSTRUCTION SET, a powerful program that allows the user to design your own way of processing information. SANDP, a newsletter/magazine program.

UTA39: IDEALIST V3.1, a versatile program for printing out text and offering lots of helpful functions to use your print in clever ways. 4 selectable sizes, up to 9 columns, separate output of fonts and pages, editable headlines and includes fonts for dot matix and laserjets.

neadlines and includes lonts for dot matix and laserjeits.

UTA40: CALAMUS SUPPORT DISK, METACON, converts CALAMUS SUPPORT DISK, METACON, converts CALAMUS SUPPORT DISK, METACON, converts CALAMUS SUPPORT DISK METACON, converts accessory to speed up printing to the HP laser. GUN'TH, sample graphics in outline format. LASLABEL, template for printing 3.5 inch disk labels. CANON printer driver for the BJIOE.

CAL_FXT text file describing Calamus font format. HPDIPTCH, a patch for the HP deskjet printer and a few other small programs.

UTA43: A disk full of accessories and utilities, ideal disk for those who do not wish to buy a disk for each type of utility.

utility.

UTA45: MAILMERGE, a good program for those with a WP
package without this utility.

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world.
UTA51: 70,000 word dictionary, replace your standard spelling checker with this and you will be onto a winner.
UTA52: FOOD AND WINE MENU MAKER, an excellent

pase that stores and prints out a menu for both and food.

Wine and food.

UTA53: GERMAN TRANSLATE, one of the better translation programs that makes sense of those German documents on some PD disks. Does it all for you.

documents on some PD disks. Does it all for you.

UTA55: HP CHROME, prints colour pictures in Degas and Neo
format utilising deskjet printers. HYPERBASE, a
multi media database, you can create windows
holding test, grapbics or sound and link them
together. CLIPART, for use with Hyperbase.
UNIPRINT, a Hi res Degas Elite printing program for
24 pin printers.

24 pin printers.
UTA56: HP DESKJET UTILITY DISK 1, printer drivers for use with 1st Word. ENVELOPE PRINTER, JETLABEL, with 1st Word. ENVELOPE PRINTER, JETLABEL, JETSET, set parameters on your deskjet. LASERJET, print at 300 dpi and loads of other useful utilities. UTA57: ASTUBANK, a personal accounts program that will tell you how much you can spend in any one month. UTA58: HARD DISK UTILITIES, everything you need to look after and maintain your hard drive. UTA60: MANUAL MAKE, a utility for putting together neat and tidy printed manuals.

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GM43: Mystic Well, a very addictive Dungeon Master game from the USA with loads of levels and puzzles to sort

GM48: Crossword Editor, create and solve crosswords. GM52: Battle for the Throne, a great RPG that takes some time

GM52: Battle 107 tie: Antensa gerichten GM54: Bog, Fuzzball, Trivia, Time Bandit, Wall Street, Quizwiz & Yahtzee, Quizzes and blasters all on one disk.

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GM106: Mindlock, another great quiz game from D. Cobbledick, I Meg.

GM109: Colour clash, from the same people who gave us Fatemaster, this time you need to use the grey matter as well as the trigger.

Fatemaster, this time you need to do do style well as the trigger.

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of instructions.

AAG05: CRACKART VI.0, almost the last word in att packages

AAGOS: CRACKART VI.O. almost the last word in att packages comes with complete English manual. I Meg required. AAGOS: FRACTAL ZOOM, probably the fastest generator of fractals around. Full manual on the disk.

AAGOS: A disk full of Fractal programs and utilities. A 3D CAD program. Full manual on disk.

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EACOL: PERFECT MATCH, question and answer card game, MATHS
TEST. For the under 10's. QUIZICAL, a good general

TEST. For the under 10's, QUIZICAL, a good general knowledge trivia game. EAC02: BODY SEARCH, designed to help children learn the human anatomy as required in elementary and junior school. THE SEARCH, a computer aided enquiry program. Search the village for info about the Gliggs family. MATHMAZE, a very good maths program that grows with the student. TRIVIA, another good general knowledge test, some of the questions are based on the USA.

are based on the USA.

EACOS: SHPWRECK, an excellent maths program that combines graphics and easy and hard levels of play. The childs interest is held by turning the learning process into a game where correct answers help the character on the screen to escape his fate. HANGMAN, the old school room favourite that belps

fate. HANCMAN, the old school room lavourite that belps with spelling.

EACO7: ABOUT THE HOUSE, control a butterfly as it moves around the house. As it lands on various objects a description is given and some animation takes place. ME, displays four pictures of a task that must be placed in the right order, once this is done the scene is animated. Help the child undstand that most tasks need several steps to complete.

EACO9: CHUNNEL, a good French/English tutor. SPANISH VERB TUTOR, this program is designed to help you learn, revise or check the proper conjugation of Spanish verbs, can be initialized to communicate in French, English, Spanish or German.

EAC10: NOAHS ARK, a good game for teaching children spelling and word recognition. SPIDER SPELL, a very good spelling aid for younger children.

EAC1: MATHS MADE EASY, for the younger ST user, the program teaches maths in all four disciplines by talking to the user thus keeping interest levels high. GEOGRAPHY QUIZ, one for the slightly old user, the test is based on flags or capitals of the

world.

EACI8: THE WORLD, an excellent program that teaches you about and quizzes you on the countries of the world.

EACI9: PLANETARIUM, if you are into astronomy then this is for you. Pick a star from the map and click on it and all the info you want is there. It will also animate past or future events. Full manual on the disk, MONO

EAC20: TELLTALE CHEMISTRY by E. Mills Bsc, PhD. An interactive program on the basics of chemistry, the program relates to GCSE grades A, B and C, good graphics & explanations of atomic structure, electron structure, formulae compounds, etc. atomic structure, electron structure, formulae compounds, etc. EAC21: CIA WORLD FACTBOOK, a four disk set of everything you

want to know about over 240 countries. If you what to know how many people live in Albania, what the birth rate is, death rate, who they are upset with, where they sell their products or just about anything else then this is for you. A document display is also included on the disk. £5.00 for the set.

EAC33: Picts to Parliament. EAC34: KV add up. EAC35: Benjamins ABC. EAC36: Maths Circus.

EAC37: GCSE Maths EAC38: Animal Sc EAC40: MOLSYS.

DTP & WP

WPD01: ST WRITER ELITE V4.1, an excellent WP package

that works in all three resolutions.
WPD02: EASY TEXT + DEMO, a fully working demo of this DTP program but you can only print out the top quarter of any A4 page.
WPD03: TYPING TUTOR, teach yourself touch typing with

this program, several levels of lessons have been built into the program.
WPD05: FIRST WORD, an excellent WP program that

features WYSIWYG on the screen. IST WORD UTILITIES, help with 1st Word. DOUBLE TTP, print your text in columns. LARGEPRINT, lets

you printout in large text.
WPD12: OPUS V2.2, a very good spreadsheet program with

an excellent chart printout routine.

WPD15: PRINTER DRIVERS for 1st Word users covers just about every make of printer, comes with full installer & instructions. WORD COUNTER.

WPTOOLS, a selection of WP utilities for 1st

WORD.
WPD18: PAGESTREAM FONTS, Postscript screen fonts for the following fonts:- Artistic, Creative, Hudson, Letter, Gothic, Oriental, Saturn, University and

WPD19: PRINTING PRESS V3.10, the closest thing to a full DTP program in PD. Also on the disk is a picture

WPD22: PRINTING PRESS EXTRA'S, a disk for use with

WPD19 containing extra fonts and clipart. WPD23: DB WRITER V1.8, a very good WP program for Hi res users which can be used by both half meg and 1 meg machines. A manual on the disk gives a good

guide to the program.
WPD24: DB WRITER SUPPORT DISK, includes a comprehensive thesaurus and a selection of dictionaries covering Medical, Legal, Computer and Biblical terms. You can also add your own

with a utility on the disk.
WPD25: A utility for designing and downloading fonts to the
STAR NL10 & LC10. Hi res only with loads of

FIRE NATURE LCTO. HIT FEE only with loads of fonts ready to use. Can be used with an emulator.
WPD26: GUTENBERG PRESS, allow a 9 pin dot matrix printer to be used as a NLQ printer, load in ASCII files and print them out in high quality format and a selection of fonts.

WPD31&32: Gem fonts (2 disks).

MUSIC AND MIDI

MUM01: ACCOMPIANIST, a 16 voice sequencer for use

with any model of ST, with room for over 10,000
notes, multi-recording with separate MID1
channels and a wide range of editing utilities.
MUM02: IN CONTROL, a user definable MID1 controller
with over 20 sliders that can be programmed to
control your mid1 instruments. SCONVERT, compress or expand sound samples.

MUM18: 1632 voices for use with the Yamaha DT/TX series

of 6 operator synths with a file reader for loading the voices directly via the midi. A varied and useful range of voices on the disk.
MUM19: TRI-SOUND SEQUENCER, a chip/digi-chip 3

channel music sequences

MUM20: SAMPLE EDITING DISK, a disk full of useful programs for editing, sampling and converting. Also on the disk is a chip music tracker to create your own music.
MUM21: MIDIDRUM & MIDIPLAY, two useful programs

for creating sounds with a drum machine and Midiplay is a basic sequencer. German documents

Midiplay is a basic sequencer. German documents with English version on disk. I meg and Mono.

MUM22: TX81Z V2.1, a mouse driven Yamaha TX81z editor. MIDIMOVER, a powerful midi file converter from Hybred Arts Freeware.

MUM24: ALCHIME Jr V2.22, this has got to be one of the best musical sequencers for the Atari anywhere. Comes with over 200 tracks for your use and has factor against the life.

far too many features to list. MUM57: FINAL SCORE, a graphic based fully WYSIWYG score writing program from Mainstream Music.

Draw staves, line squares, 5 selectable score fonts, print preview mode, etc. Printer drivers now added

for most makes of printer. MUM58: ROLAND 'D' SERIES SOUND BANKS, a bank of tones for the D5, D10, D20, D110 and GR synths.

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The yak, Jeff Minter's trademark and electronic signature

users will benefit from the new Corporation." Atari

So what precisely is Jeff working on for the Jaguar now that Tempest has established the new machine as the hottest games property in town?

Those who have followed his work in recent years will know of his interest in light synthesizers Trip-a-tron, Colourspace - and it comes as no surprise to find that Jeff is working on such a light show for the Jaguar.

FINISHED

The finished product will, in fact, be built into the soon-to-be-released CD-ROM version of the Jag, enabling its lucky owners to plug the machine into their hi-fis and enjoy a truly mind-blowing visual experience, fully synchronised with the sounds of an audio CD. Jeff's recommendation is Pink Floyd, but then that's what you would expect from a long-haired hippy figure punctuating his speech with words like "psychedelics" and "cool"....

Together with his friends Dave Japp, a hardware engineer, and Dr Ian Bennett, a mathematician well-versed in computer graphics, he has recently formed a separate company for this aspect of his work. His Virtual Light Company have exciting plans to expand into larger systems for clubs and live bands, perhaps incorporating several Jaguars chained together for



Is Floppy really the "prettiest sheep in the world", as Jeff Minter thinks? Molly doesn't agree

some truly awesome effects.

All this high-tech stuff, however, is only one side of Jeff Minter, as is immediately obvious to anyone entering his cottage or even meeting him in his llama sweater covered in sheep and yak badges. Jostling for space amidst the keyboards and monitors is an enormous collection of furry animal paraphernalia, and the quickest way to change the subject from video games is to mention sheep, camels, llamas or yaks.

SHEEP

Games titles like "Sheep in Space" and the plentiful four-legged sprites featured in them are further pointers to the other great interest in his life. Jeff is mad about these beasts, and takes great delight in showing you the llama photos he took on a holiday - or should it be pilgrimage to the Peruvian Andes, or treating you to appropriate sounds and pictures from his Mammals CD.

Remember the two sheep outside the cottage which I mentioned earlier? They are Molly and Flossie, bought years ago for a few quid from the local farmers to save them from ending up on dinner plates. Molly and Flossie are probably more important to Jeff than his two

Jaguars and he refers to them affectionately as "my girls". Flossie, Jeff insists, is the "most beautiful sheep in the world". Look at the picture on this page and you'll see why only Molly could possibly

argue with that! It would be hard to find someone who is more at peace with himself, living with creatures he adores in peaceful surroundings, earning a decent living doing what he enjoys most.

I asked Jeff how he came to be a games programmer in the first place, expecting him perhaps to be a computing graduate who was hired by a commercial software house and, once successful, setting up on his own. But no, it turns out that Jeff never had any formal programming qualifications or training.

"I just started to write simple games for friends on my Commodore Vic 20 in the early '80s and got chucked off my Physics course at the University of East Anglia because I spent more time coding games than studying," he explains rather sheepishly (no pun intended).

Another attempt at Higher Education at a Polytechnic failed for similar reasons, and he also went through a period of serious illness. Eventually Jeff decided to concentrate on the one thing he enjoyed and was good at - writing games. The Vic 20, and the Commodore 64 especially, were the platforms from which he launched his career, but Atari was to become his fate. "I have always admired the machines built by the Tramiels, first at Commodore and then at Atari. They were simply the best."

His reputation as Britain's foremost games programmer is based on sheer speed, technical brilliance and, above all, supreme playability.

'Playability is everything", he insists and he has never considered joining the lucrative bandwagon of heavily promoted TV and film tie-ins or gratuitous gore and violence. Although his games fall into the category of shoot-'em-ups, he is in fact a pacifist who has been known to feature the CND symbol in his games.

In his philosophy, coding highly playable and entertaining games is a way of communicating with people. For this reason, he really appreciates feedback from his players and is one of the more approachable megastars of the games scene through email via CIX or the Internet, known to most people there simply as "the yak".

This attitude is also exemplified by his enthusiasm for the shareware concept. Jeff is full of praise for the honesty of Atari users who have richly rewarded his decision to make games like Llamatron available as shareware by a flood of registrations.

Llamasoft, the software house he runs with his parents, used to rely heavily on

shareware: "At one time, shareware registrations were our lifeblood and Atari registrations far exceeded those from other hardware platforms"

I was struck by the fact that Jeff hardly ever uses his computers for anything other than games development. The TT, for example, only has Atari's Jaguar development

tools on its hard disk.

The PC may drive the modem and CD-ROMs, and the old Mac does some word processing, but mainstream computer applications play virtually no role in leff's daily activities and he has never been tempted to employ his legendary coding skills to write applications software.

INTEREST

As a true assembly metal-basher who hits the hardware directly to squeeze it for every ounce of speed, high-level programming languages are anathema to him.

At some points in our conversation, it occurred to me that we were speaking entirely different languages, sharing a common interest in Atari hardware but having totally different ideas about what it is for.

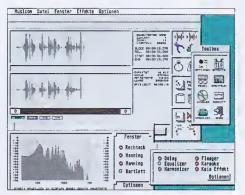
But that, in fact, is Atari in a nutshell: here's some powerful hardware at a good price, do with it what you will. Tempest on the Jaguar today, tomorrow desktop publishing on a personal computer incorporating the Jaguar chipset?

Waving goodbye to Molly and Flossie, my thoughts were with the wild cats inside the cottage. Could it be that I had just seen the future of Atari computing? The friendly hippie whose assembler skills have tamed the beasts was smiling enigmatically. It would suit him fine, no

ocated literally at the border between Holland and Germany, with Belgium only a mile to the south, Compo are the epitome of a pan-European company.

Their building, which used to be the Dutch customs office, now has two addresses, one German and the other Dutch, and telephones have German and Dutch lines. Although Theo Breuers, Compo's managing director, is Dutch there are also Germans and Americans working at the HQ.

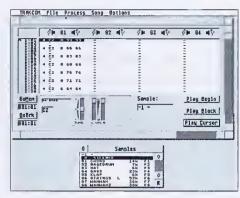
Compo were founded in 1986 to develop interactive medical-training PC software for Universities. The name is the Dutch acronym for Computer Aided Medical And Paramedical Teaching. Poor PC graphics led Compo to first explore the Mac but in the end settle on the ST. Back then the students were not computer literate, so ST's friendly graphical user interface was a big improve-



MusicCOM 2 is now fully modular and provides numerous real-time effects from equaliser to Karaoke

ment over the PC's command line.

Having made the move in 1987, Compo rewrote their educational software for the ST followed by a program for dentists including digitized X-rays.



TrakCom is a brand new program that combines individual samples into complete songs

Compo also networked a few hospitals using A-Net, where to this day the Atari system still operates. But none of the software was very successful due to the conservative nature of medicine and its dedication to the PC.

The end result was another change of direction in 1988 when Compo started working on That's Write. This was followed by the biggest Compo success to date and marked their venture into hardware.

PC-Speed came out in 1989 and sold over 100,000 units worldwide thus making it the best sold Atari ST product ever. It was bought from Sack-Electronics with whom Compo contin-





That's Write, currently in version 3. That's Write Classic is about to be released in the UK where it will be known as Write On 2

The programmers who say "No"

Actually they say yes, but they are together under the umbrella of "no software". Currently numbering seven, "no software" are group of independent developers who happen to work closely with Compo who publish and distribute most of their work. We caught up with three of them at the recent proTOS Atari show.

Jîrg Tochtenhagen

Jîrg is another programmer who got hooked on computers thanks to the now legendary ZX81. Having borrowed a friend's ZX-Spectrum back in 1983, Jîrg was so fascinated he decided to get one himself.

Playing games on an Atari 2600 was just not enough so he started programming in Z80 assembler. But it wasn't until 1987 that he got his hands on an ST. A 1040 was given to him as a graduation present.



A year later he had already written his first big program Sound Merlin. Back then there were various sound samplers available for the ST's cartridge port. Jîrg bought one but was underwhelmed by the software. He wanted to use the sampler in a more musical fashion so

he wrote Sound Merlin just for himself as a simple drum machine cum sample editor.

But, as is always the case, he kept adding features and one day he realised he had a full-blown program on his hands. Originally it was written in GFA-Basic with assembler sections for time-critical tasks. But the more he programmed in assembler, the more he liked it and eventually he rewrote the whole program in Devpac Assembler.

This love of assembler extended to other programs such as Convector 2 in 1990 which is 95 per cent in assembler. The remaining five per cent was in C which became the new attraction for Jîrg.

In 1991 he got a TT and at the start of 1993 a Falcon, the two computers he still uses for all his developments. Jîrg also wrote a number of smaller programs including two modules for MegaPaint, GEM-Metafile and accessory modules.

However, his main program is Arabesque, originally written by Shift but not kept up to date. Jîrg worked on a major overhaul resulting in a complete rewrite which is to be released as Arabesque 2.

Today lîrg's setup includes a TT with a 19in Eizo monitor and a Crazy Dots graphics card. All of his programming is done in Pure C and Devpac Assembler. Pure C used to be Borland's Turbo C but was renamed in Germany after Borland pulled out of the ST market.

Although he was taught Pascal at school, Jîrg likes C because it's very close to assembler and yet very easy to program. Another reason for switching to Pure C is its excellent source level debugger. Interestingly enough, Jîrg does all his programming not under TOS but under Mag!x, a multitasking OS from Germany that is only now beginning to spread to the UK. He uses MultiTOS only for testing.

ued to improve it, resulting in AT-Speed in 1991 and culminating in Falcon-Speed

Another milestone was Compo Script, a PostScript interpreter, which was the first time an Atari company had worked with a leading US giant to port software technology over to the ST. This involved using BitStream fonts and working with Lincoln, a company famous for their work with Adobe.

GROWING

The British branch - now one of the most active - was opened in 1990 under the guidance of Neal O'Nions. Theo knew Neal when he used to work for GST. The original idea was to cooperate more closely with GST but instead

When it comes down to dedicated Atari programmers there ain't no competition to Compo. Don Maple tells us why



under one roof. Compo opened a second office at Atari HQ in Viannen with other Dutch companies such as Technobox and Calamus B.V. They all paid rent to Atari and in return got instant access and superior support. The US branch was opened in June 1992 and this year Compo also opened a French office.

Compo have always cooperated very closely with Atari. Back in 1991 a joint project in Dallas resulted in 50 prototypes of a 1040 with built-in AT-Speed and an IDE drive. However, the machine never came out. Theo still regrets this because the timing was definitely right for an ST with built-in hardware PC emulation. Compo don't develop everything inhouse but rely on outside contractors. This often results in buying the product from original developers and then continuing together. Compo are also willing to buy and develop ideas.

"Our competitors are not Atari companies but the Mac and Windows," said Theo. "We've been telling this to other Atari companies for months. We want to work together with them because that's the only way to survive."

Theo was very forceful on this point.

COMPOtition



Ralf Becker

Ralf too owes his introduction to computers to a British-made machine. It was a Schneider CPC664 which is what Amstrad computers were called in Germany. Having seen a friend's 464 with the built-in tape recorder he decided to get the 664 in 1984.

In the beginning it was only used to play games which Ralf typed in. This turned out to be boring in the long run, so to satisfy his creative urge he started writing his

own games. But Basic is not exactly the fastest of languages and this led to the inevitable slide into Z80 assembler.

Many smaller programs followed, including tools and file filters but the whole setup eventually became "too old fashioned" and Ralf moved over to the ST in the guise of a 1040. This proved quite a shock because the ST was so different.

After a brief flirtation with GFA-Basic he settled down with Omikron Basic, another popular German program. He wrote some labyrinth

adventures games and demos. Eventually Ralf migrated to Megamix C but then switched over to Turbo C like most German ST programmers. In the beginning he found C a bit cryptic. At the time he also did his national service so he attended some C courses which were on offer there. Slowly he started appreciating C more and

While studying computer science, he got in touch with his current partners. He wrote a calculator accessory which perked up the interest of his contemporaries. The same calculator called Trech still runs in

In the meanwhile Ralf tried out all sorts of languages from Turbo Pascal and Modula to all sorts of Basic dialects. His main language remains C, "although C requires a certain amount of discipline otherwise it becomes unreadable," he said. However, due to this structured environment he developed a style which he likes.

In terms of hardware, Ralf moved over from his 1040 to a Mega STE and then settled on a TT with a graphic card and a 17in monitor. In terms of software he uses Pure C and runs a desktop replacement program called CoCom which he calls his "no desk"

Ralf also co-wrote with Jeremy Hughes a Calamus-to-GEM font converter called C-font, used to import Calamus fonts into That's

He also wrote the no installer, a program used to install various "no" programs and he completely rewrote the That's Write 3 user interface. Finally, he wrote the printer module called Flexi Print which is a part of both That's Write and That's Address.

Such cooperation also facilitates standardisation. For example, "no interface" would be accepted if it were a Compo product but as a cooperative effort, other companies are more likely to adopt it.

Compo also work closely with Brainstorm from France, another major player in the Atari market, and have just formed a joint distribution company "ATTAC" with Overscan, a well known German developer, to market the products resulting from this cooperation.

"Compo were always on the serious side of the Atari market," said Theo. "But now we are moving into other areas, in particular music and communications.

Compo were also the first to support the Falcon, even before it came out. A Compo program called Hard-Chord was used by Atari at the end of 1992 to demonstrate the Falcon's capabilities at a show in Cologne, Germany. The visitors received it very favourably, so Compo reworked the user interface and released it as Musicom.

RUNNING FAST

The hottest hardware product today is the Medusa. This DM8000 "TOS computer" - as Theo calls it - outperforms even the TT by several orders of magnitude.

"Medusa is a sign to the market that it's possible to build a TOS-compatible computer. It's 100 per cent compatible with all programs that run under MultiTOS." Medusa runs a patched TOS 3.06 under licence from Atari. "The patches were needed because the only two original chips we use are DMA and AJAX. The rest are all normal PC parts."

Theo explained the main concept



Theo Breoers at the new high-end TOS-compatible computer

behind the Medusa: "We don't have a lot of overheads as Atari do and we don't have to make money with the Medusa. What's important to us is that there is a new machine. It's a sign to the high-end market in Germany that even without Atari a developer can come out with a new TOS-compatible machine and that the development continues."

An advertising company at the recent CeBIT show compared loading times of Calamus under Windows NT on an Alpha a DM35,000 machine – at 19 seconds, with Medusa's 22! "I also hope that the Eagle comes to the market to complete the line: the TT, the Eagle and at the highend the Medusa," said Theo.

Looking to the future, Compo have several interesting projects about to be released. CD-ROM-ROM is a DM599 cartridge and double-speed CD-ROM drive package for any ST.

Afterburner, expected to cost between DM1600 and DM2000 is a 68040 accelerator card for the Falcon. Moving to software, the latest program is TrakCom, a DM199 synthesizer. Musicom 2 at DM199 started shipping to the UK at the time of this interview. But perhaps most interesting was the new Falcon voice mail system called T-Phone, priced at DM399. Theo pulled out a small box with a number of ports.

It connects to the Falcon's microphone and speaker ports providing throughsignals for both. An American-style phone socket is used to connect it to the phone system and there is also a connector to the serial port. The device is currently being approved and will come with very powerful software.

If anything can be learned from Compo's success it's that the European idea is very beneficial for business once people look beyond the narrow-minded parochial view.

The recipe for success is to support the Atari market vigorously with new developments like Compo do, instead of the wavering and flirting with the PC prevalent among some other companies.. It's thanks to this forward-looking attitude that Compo are clearly a market leader and innovator consequently and deservedly prospering in the process.

The programmers who say "No"



Jîrg Zabell

Jîrg is currently one of the managers of "no software", but he too started computing as a hobby. His first computer back in 1982 was an Atari 800. He got it after a long search and detailed evaluation of what was available at the time. Six months later he followed up with a cassette recorder and eventually a floppy drive.

The main reason he chose the Atari 800 was

because of the paddle ports and their analog-to-digital converters. The only close runner was a Belgian computer called DAI that has since disappeared into oblivion. It had many input/output ports but was just

Jîrg held on to his Atari 800 until the advent of the ST in 1985. He bought one of the very first STs to be imported into Germany. He liked the computer so much he became an Atari dealer. During this time he also got into programming and did work for his customers but this was using PC databases such as dBase.

While managing the store, Jîrg was constantly in touch with customers and one of the subjects that kept coming up was word processing. It turned out that users were not happy with what was available at the time, so he started considering developing something

During this time Jîrg got in touch with a number of ST programmers, both through his store and the University. One of them wrote a disk copy program in the original ST Basic. Others worked on various tools and utilities such as Key Click - a keyboard macro recorder - and LQ Font - a program to transparently produce letter quality output on non-LQ printers. Both of these ended up as commercial programs.

It was this group of programmers that worked on the StarWriter to address all the feedback Jîrg was getting in the store. The program was taken over by Compo for distribution and Jîrg abandoned the store and focused solely on software development. Today Jirg is the managing director at "no software".

No future!

With programmers like that, it's no wonder (sic) that "no software" have big plans for the future. This comes in addition to an already long list of current programs such as That's Write, That's Address, That's Pixel, WordPlus 4 and ComBase to name but a few.

"no software" also worked in part on MusiCom, CompoScript and ScreenEye software. On the immediate horizon are three major projects scheduled for release later this year: Arabesque 2 - a CorelDraw lookalike, Formula-X3 a powerful formula editor, and LDW PowerCalc 3 - a Lotus 123-compatible spreadsheet.

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So while the rain pounds against the window pane, why not pick up the phone and order some of these excellent titles?

Borganizer Etc.

Programmed by: Various Available from: Goodman International Disk No. GD 2268

One of the public domain's main strengths is the diversity of software on offer - whatever your tastes, there is invariably going to be a package to suit your delicate computing palette. Borganizer Etc is no exception to this carved-in-stone rule, offering six utilities and oddities to spend time with.

Among the line-up is the main program, Borganizer. While the title may seem a little obscure to say the least, the actual utility - a book, magazine and newspaper database - is extremely simple and easy.

Details about any literature you're reading - from books to individual items taken from pamphlets and other sources of the written word - can be entered into the comprehensive catalogue. Comments and dates can be typed in to provide a highly useful and effective filing system for anyone needing a detailed database to work from.

After cataloguing your novels, load up the Astro program for a quick tour round the

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Keep notes and detailed records of book, magazine and newspaper collections

different star signs and the types of personalities normally associated with each. Also listed are the various Chinese years over the last century and their respective animal symbols.

For those looking for a little guidance in finding the perfect partner, a compatibility guide has been included for lost romantics.

As well as these two programs, there's a label printer called NoFrills that lives up to its title - it's very basic looking. An address book program for storing useful names completes the package, the only problem being that it's laid out in the American address format with zip codes. Despite this, the computerised address book is a handy addition.

On the whole, the package works well, despite some scrappy presentation of a few of the programs featured. If you can see a use for any or perhaps all the software then Borganizer Etc is well worth a look.



Adam Phillips boots up and reviews the latest PD releases for your machine

MUZZY

Programmed by: Enigma Software Developments

Available from: Holburn Software

Muzzy, apparently, has a great lust. This desire takes the form of a craving for shiny

Why this should be is a question that is never answered and perhaps only the likes of Freud would be able to drum up an appropri-

Or perhaps, it's just a way for the programmers to create the old scenario where you grab as many valuables as possible and try to add a spark of fresh-

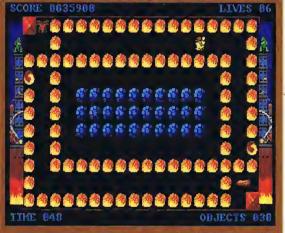
ness to the proceedings.

Our Muzzy was in fact made specifically for this purpose - to travel from screen to screen through four different elements, Earth (gold), Fire (gems), Water (rocks) and Air (balloons... eh?), and grab every shiny object. Once done, it's time to move on to the next screen.

Rocks can be pushed round, switches flicked and enemies blocked off or destroyed by setting off bombs near them, making your travels through the four different worlds a challenge. Graphics are basic but serve their purpose adequately, as does the sound which boasts an attractive title theme.

To dispel fears of having to plough through all the levels each time "game over" is declared, a useful password system has been provided.

For £5.99, Muzzy may not look or sound like anything particularly special it's all a little reminiscent of Boulderdash, with faster gameplay - but after the initial misgivings, this is actually a reason-ably addictive little title.



Lust after shiny, silky objects in Muzzy, an offbeat game with an addictive edge

Side Long

Programmed by: Gary Wheaton & Kathy Steinbach Available from: Goodman International Disk No. GBU 123

This month seems to be one huge blast from the past, and Side Long is no exception. Looking remarkably like the arcade



Hurtle through caverns and space complexes to escape from certain death

HP Chrome 2.5

Programmed by: Rufus Developments Available from: Various

Hewlett-Packard printers would appear to be the most successful in their class. They are cheap, reliable and well supported, and the DeskJet series is apparently the best selling range of printers in the world.

The HP range now has another string to its bow with the arrival of HP Chrome, an extremely useful utility for users of the Desk Jet, DJ+/500, 500c, 500b and the 550c. The basic function of HP Chrome is to enable the user to print as many differing picture formats as possible HP Chrome is an ideal tool for getting the - Degas, Neo, Gif, TIFF, Tiny, RAW, Spectrum and (X)IMG to be precise.



most from your Hewlett-Packard Deskjet

Any image can be viewed, via a main menu, then cropped and positioned precisely where you want it on the page. Once done, it's possible to alter the colour, brightness and contrast to suit your own specific requirements. For all owners of Hewlett-Packard gear, this is a very useful and well structured piece of software that shows off what the PD market can offer the individual.



An excellent package that should help keep the kids busy and creative for many an hour

Art For Kids

Programmed by: Wizard Software Available from: Goodman International Disk No. GD 2277

If keeping the kids occupied is one of your least favourite pastimes then computers can offer the parent a helping hand. Unfortunately, most of the time this results in multiple pixelised body blows and hacking the flesh off undead corpses

For a more constructive use of their time, Art For Kids offers an ideal solution. Despite only being a demo, the package offers an entertaining and creative tool for children to while away a few hours.

Starting with a drawing board with icons littered liberally round the outside, the youngster is able to draw with pencils, brushes, stencils and various other facilities to create a work of art or, at the very least, something that's supposed to look like an elephant.

Each function is accompanied by sound effects - use an eraser and the action is accompanied by the sound of a squeak as the picture is eaten away. Patterns can be added and mystery images loaded in which need to be "erased" to be revealed from the background.

Another nice touch is the use of stamps where the user can choose from a large selection of pre-drawn images and place them all over the screen. Just to show how kids-orientated this title is, the various important functions such as loading, saving and quitting require the use of certain keys, ensuring that a wandering mouse pointer won't accidentally wipe out a picture and cause a screaming tantrum.

It's these touches that make Art For Kids an excellent buy for kids (and adults!) alike and comes highly recommended.

classic Scramble, you're in control of a ship fleeing from a space station on the verge of explosion. With space installations and craggy cavern stalagmites constantly hampering the craft's progress, the game is no walk over.

Using the on-ship lasers and missiles, a path can be cleared to allow your vehicle to make its way out before the countdown reaches zero or your fuel runs out. Graphics and sound are effective and the scrolling is excellent, adding that all important touch of professionalism.

The gameplay is simple and it's addictive stuff trying to reach the exit within the time limit. To add to the tension, if you keep getting killed on a certain stage, the computer puts you further and further back. This develops a frustrating but suspenseful tug of war as you try desperately to get past a particularly tricky lump of rock.

As if all this excitement and life fulfilling action wasn't enough, the real gem on the disk is Cyberstorm, a top class Defender clone. Shoot along a wrap-round landscape, blowing up anything that moves, add a healthy



Cyberstorm, this month's recommended buy for the best in highly addictive and playable action

amount of power-ups for better weapons and differing scenery including lethal spurting volcanoes plus large enemy spaceships and you have a minor PD classic in your disk drive.

These games aren't simply two average titles thrown together to make them easier to sell but are worth playing in their own right. This comes highly recommended.

ZX81 Emulator

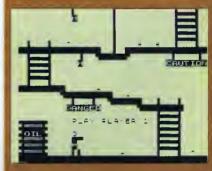
Produced by: Christoph Zwerschke Available from: Goodman International
Disk No. GD2203

By 'eck, them were days when I was a mere whipper-snapper of a lad, watching me dad stooped over that terrible keyboard deep in concentration over his latest programming masterpiece. That doorstop, the half way point between the ZX80 and Spectrum, heralded an age of home computing that we take for granted

today. This program may seem to serve but it's certainly a worthwhile trip for all computer veterans who can't quite remember what it was like to use one of those state-of-the-art machines. The user is provided with the ZX81 operating system and over a hundred games all on one disk, plus utilities and other assorted golden age goodies to play around with.

Confronted with that many titles to sort your way through, it makes you realise the restrictions programmers had to work with all that time ago the likes of 3D Labyrinth and Kong make you wince in nostalgic embarrassment at what must have been a hell of a programming feat at the

time of writing .
The ZX81 Emulator, for what it is, is a highly worthwhile buy for old computer addicts and newcomers alike to see what things were like not so long ago. Recommended.



Featuring over a hundred programs and the original operating system, the ZX81 Emulator is a must buy

Attention all PD libraries

If you wish to feoture in Atari ST User, just send any af your titles which you feel warthy of review to: Public Sectar, Atari ST User, Eurapress Enterprise, Europo House, Adlingtan Pork, Macclesfield SK10 4NP.

Please include a list of the contents of each disk detailing the program name/s ond what they are. This ensures quick ossessment and inclusion into the mogozine. If you are a shareware outhor, send in your lotest creation along with a list of librories who will be distributing your program/s thereby ochieving maximum publicity.

Counter Attack

Programmed by: Angus Muir Available from: LAPD Disk No. G3S4

Counter Attack is one of those games which, like Connect 4 and Othello, appear deceptively simple but on closer inspection and playing, take the unprepared grey cells by surprise. Presented in a similar style to the "drop 'n' rack" system seen in Connect 4, the player has to fill a grid with different coloured tiles.

The main catch is not to put two tiles of the same colour next to each other horizontally, vertically or diagonally - if you do, it's game over and back to the beginning. It all sounds rather undemanding but even a slight lapse in concentration as the board builds up, spells instant failure or the time limit running down to zero.

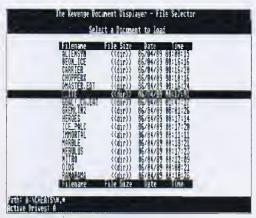
Graphics are effective but the sound is of a very high standard - voices and other samples regularly ring out to add to the proceedings.

Also included on the same disk is 3D Maze, a basic update of a very old game which can be found in the ZX81 Emulator. In a basic-looking 3D labyrinth, the player must use the "hot 'n' cold" coordinates to manoeuvre to the exit.

Neither game is what you would call spectacular but Counter Attack offers enough to keep gamesters happy for a couple of hours.



Slide the tiles in to the right positions in Counter Attack



With over 600 tips, pokes, advice and psychiatric help, the Ultimate Cheaters Guide has something for everyone

The Ultimate **Cheaters Guide** Database

Produced by: Ijaz Hussain Available from: lazzbox Inc.

As long as people have been playing games, there has been a market for solutions, cheats and pokes to help soothe the frustrations of everyday players. We receive regular bundles of letters from struggling gameplayers asking, pleading and begging for advice how to get past the guardian on level six or where to use the corkscrew in the gents toilets.

Here, for those frothing at the mouth for tips, is the Ultimate Cheat Guide, boasting

some 600 ST and Lynx cheats. Games advice ranges from R-Type and Zynaps to Elite and Goal. Complete solutions are also available for such epics as Ishar and codes are provided for Lemmings and Populous to help make your way past those fiendish levels that have no apparent solution.

A database program means you can enter your own tricks of the gaming trade for future reference. The author has promised to provide updates on all the latest titles, so coupled with Atari ST User's invaluable cheat section, this is an ideal package for all gamesters.

Rumbo

Programmed by: Facade Software Available from: Floppyshop Disk No. GAM 4162c

We've had hedgehogs, plumbers, androids, moles and foxes featuring in platform games. Now, in a Rick Dangerous spin off called Rumbo, the ST's first squirrel hero bursts onto the screen.

Revolving round the rather stale plot of

rescuing the muscle-rippled rodent's kidnapped girlfriend, the player must guide the sprite through various screens, leaping, shooting and avoiding obstacles



Grab your guns and head off in to those catacombs in this average platform adventure

The gameplay is hardly spectacular and the look of the whole game is crude on the whole. The sprites stutter across the screen instead of moving smoothly and the player is regularly put back to the beginning of a section when killed, so several screens have to be traversed all over again.

Die-hard Rick Dangerous fans will probably glean some enjoyment from Rumbo

but the rest of us will be left with the distinct feeling that the little furry creature should've stayed in the woods where he belongs.

Creative Titler 2

Programmed by: Justin Orton & Richard Padgett Available from: Various

While the Amiga is the ultimate machine for videography and animation due to the huge array of programs and hardware add-ons available for it, the ST is known primarily in professional circles as an excellent music tool and is a little starved of decent video software.

With the arrival of Creative Titler 2, that imbalance has been redressed somewhat. The package allows you to take text, pictures, images and animation frames created on other packages and Creative Titler 2 is a useful, well presented have them displayed on a monitor or TV, or recorded onto video. Whatever mate-

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utility for budding videographers

rial you're using is loaded into the memory in groups of 14 individual frames.

From there, various special effects can be used to shape the presentation to fit your own particular creative requirements. Picture in picture, full loop control, instant view options and many other effects are at your disposal.

For anyone who has seen the delights of Scala on an Amiga 4000 and envied its versatility, Creative Titler 2 offers a highly professional and tempting glimpse into how the ST can produce attractive audio visual presentation with the right software.

Lay your hands on me...

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> "Essential Buy, 90%" ST Review, May 93

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Minis - Hard Drive System

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It is the only Hard drive awarded an Essential Buy of 92% - Atari ST Review Christmas '93, and a Gold Award of 93% - ST Format Feb. '94

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The Falcon is fast becoming the prefered choice for 8 track digital recording, with powerful programs such as Cubase Audio using it to its full potential. The DSP chip opens up a whole new world of Sound and Graphics. System Solutions now supply 32Mhz Falcon 030 computers from stock.

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Magic - Multitasking Operating System

Definitely the most exciting product this year is Magic - Multitasking Operating System. Written by the same programmers that brought you NVDI and the replacement desktop EOS, Magic is likely to become the standard by which all other Atari operating systems are judged.

Magic runs on all Atari ST/STe/Mega and TT computers with 512Kb, but 2Mb Ram is recommended for a useful working system. Not only

does this system run several programs at the same time, but it has been so highly optimised that running one application under Magic is actually faster than under normal TOS.

The Falcon version is expected for later in the year.

Magic (Intro price) £59.95 Magic and NVDI £89.95 £99.95 Magic and Kobold



NVDI

NVDI replaces the Atari display routines. Screen updates with NVDI are 3-10 times faster. Works with all TOS versions on all Atari ST, MegaST, TT, and Falcon 030 computers. Cubase and Notator compatible.

Compatibility is remarkable and we have yet to find a program that is not compatible with NVDI'.

ST Review Issue 16, August 1993.

NVDI version 2.5

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- Falcon Boot 1.2, Bockward 2.24 (ST emulator), New Depock, Text Files, Desk Copy, Deskipt. 1.05, Sysinfa, Dc Xirod 2.1, Revive, SpinitBD 1.3 (mils).

 Grotesque (Excellent), Gourad, Speeder, Plassna 30 8.50, Intel + morel (demos).

 Templatinal The first disk of an EXCLUSIVE pack of JPEG pictures of gargeous girls.

 Excellent quality pictures and the three disk pack contains no less than ninety pictures! Yes 901 Disks 2 8.3 an FALC 32 8.33.

 Nethack 3.1.1 2 Mag memory. Ballibant durgeons and dragons game.

 RDE 3.1, Toswin 1.4, Uha 2.22, Zoa 2.1, Zip 2.3, Gem Bench 3.25, Good Backup 1.13, Boot Init 1.1, Ecopy I.S, Foontrol, Shibot I.3 (ufils).

 Fradal Playtime, Gemiriev, Delmpaint, Gix Gif, Binaris 2.0 + morel (art).

 System Audia Manager 1.1 assign samples to events, Digliapse 2 dema (music).

 Emocs 3.11, Everest 1.5, KM Term, Atomik 3.5, X-Menu 1.3, Profile 1.43, Rez/bacler (run RGB stuff on VGA monitor), Fullers 1.0.1, Swabs, Dedock 1.0, Fuzzy Clock 1.14.

 When Dreans Become Rebilly (RGB), Warum (RGB), Inconvex (RGB) (demos).

 Oxyd (excellent!), Des Lasers et Des Hommes (3D shoot em up), Masters of Chaos FAIC 31
- FALC 3S FALC 36
- FALC S2 FALC 77
- FAIC 103
- FAIC 110
- FALC 113
- FALC 116 FALC 117 FALC 119
- When Dreams Secure Robin, (Robb), Varum (Rob), Loovax (Rob), (Idemos), Oxyd (excellent), Des Lasers et Des Hommes (3D shoot em up), Masters of Chaos (Dungson Master done), Tron, Ishar Editor, Mario Karl demo. (games).

 Folcon Flight Demo- real hime zooming demo aver fradal landscape + great music.

 Crime by the DNT crew, Magnet by Alphatech, Bobs-1. All RGB/TV only. (demos).

 DMB (sons Iwo large sets of replacement icons, Before Darw screensaver 1.25.

 Videl early to use TGA viewer, Roinbow demo 0.5 Truscolour art package.

 Mahigrag III German version of this dassic file game. Disk apprax 1/2 full.

 Margo demo (Ameg-) dighitsed pictures of a woman modelling a skimpy biknill

 Multi-Diralogue 1.3, Master Browse 3.2 excellent text file viewer, F-Cache 6.0.

 Odolayer 0.8 another 8-tock trades ported from the STE+ doos & source code.

 Papo was a Blade Runner (Ameg-) new demo by EKC, very good. RGB/TV only.

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 Moving Tixels Demo (VGA) 4 meg+ o mega-massive demo that requires 10 megabytes of hard drive spacel From Australia, this basically shows off the Folcon itself the sort of thing you'd see in a shop window, covering graphics, sound and productivity. Very good. Five disks £8.001

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 Mysfic Well, Deep Lair, Football, Harris Goes Skiing, Hounted House, Invaders, **GAME 179**
- GAME 180

- GAME 180 Mysfix Well, Deep Lair, Frootball, Harris Goes Skiing, Hounted House, Invaders, Jumpster, Roam, Shoreage Deluxe, USA, Zyam, Firestorm.

 GAME 181 Ulopos I. S. very slick STE only Oids/Grav type game, Endurance 3D game.

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 GAME 189 Premier Mchignag III excellent version of this superb file game. 60Hz only.

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 GAME 190 Quest for Knowledge quiz type game set in a maze arena.

 GAME 191 World Fighting Championships beat up opponents from all over the world.

 GAME 198 Roll-III ingenious puzzle game with 40 levels, a sort of boll/file game. I megr.

 GAME 199 Skulls A flosh STE only version of Minesweeper from the PC, good. I megr.

 GAME 201 Yes A Mug's Game good overhead view boxing game with ince graphics etc.

 GAME 202 Money Mania collect all the money from each screen, loads of nasties etc. Good.

 GAME 201 Ruthless, shoot em up, Spherical good platform game, Serendipity good puzzler.

BUDGIE GAMES - £2.75 EACH

 Horse Racing Simulator for 1 to S players. 8uy/sell and bet!
 Jetpack - another faithful clone of a classic Speccy game.
 Football Tactician - formerly a £20 release! Excellent! BUGAM 89 BUGAM 104 BUGAM 113 BUGAM 121 - Super Scramble - take a trip to the 8-bit days with this shoot 'em up.

DEMOS

- Kuba Club Culture Mix Pack 1 6 great bits of dub music.

 The Brace Demo nice outo-running multi-part from Diamond Design.

 The Edge of Panic Demo a good STE only demo by ACCS.

 Exhaust demo arother good STE only demo by ACCS, 1 meg EXACTLY!

 Sid James Demo d ips from the films STE only 1 meg+, 2 d isks £3.50. DEMO 356 DEMO 3S1
- DEMO 350 DEMO 342 **DEMO 335**
- Reality is a Lie a 13 screen demo by Psychomix, very good. 1 meg+.

 Cemelary demo a good digi-music demo.

 Beginning of the Ending this demo actually plays in the background of a game of breakour which is played with S balls! Hows your concentration. **DEMO 333 DEMO 330**

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 TRAC 127 More Lemmings, Bockpopped, Psychic 1, Bushfrie, Donna 2, Ace Base, Echoing.

 TRAC 126 Scrambled Mind, 1+ World, Wyre II, Hope Brd 12, Latus Turba 2, H-Metal.

 TRAC 125 The Loader Find, Artificial, Finally I Play, Space Journey, SIII.

WORDPROCESSING & DTP

- WORD 1 ST Writer Elite, EDI Text, Zap ST, ST Page, Typist, Desk Accessories. 'A'.

 WORD 4 First Word + tools, Grommar checker demo, Spell 8 inder, Text Filter. 'A'.

 WORD 5 Calomus Demo, no save function but you can print. 'H'.

 WORD 9 Calomus Support disk loads of utilities for Calomus and fonts etc. 'H'.

 WORD 12 Popyrus Office Demo 2.26 good document processor with finants etc. 'H'.

 WORD 13 Calomus S Jemo fully functioning except save. 2 disks. £3.50. 'H' 1 Meg+.

BUSINESS

- BUSI 2 Sheet 2.0, Dbase One, First Base 1.6, Home Budget Template. 'A'.

 BUSI 4 Opus 2.2 brilliont spreadsheet. 1 Meg+. 'A'.

 BUSI 6 Double Sentry Book Keeping System, Address Book. 'A'.

 BUSI 17 Astubank 1. 1at complete home occounts system colour only.

 BUSI 11 Compact Office Management Pragram 2.05 for businesse, tons of features. 'A'.

 BUSI 12 Imventory PRO keep trock of stock levels, GP Pofient Care for GPs. 'H'.

 BUSI 14 Data Techniques 1.41 easy to use but powerful new shareware database system. 'A'.

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UTILITIES & APPLICATIONS

UPON REQUEST

- Startgem, Head Start 1.1, DC Clock, Disk Checker, Hard Disk Utils, Ram Disks, Hack 'n'
- Copy, Turtle 3.2 (HO backup), Megaformat, Memory Test. 'A'.

 Pools 2.5, 51 init 3.4, Switcher loads programs faster, 20 DC utilities. 'A'.

 FCOpy 3, DC Showiri, Desk Manager, Disk Scan, Mono Emulator S, Spool, DC Stuffer (loads 32 occs), Speech Synthesiser, Mouse Accelerator. 'A'. UTIL 5
- James The Buffer, London Phone Codes, MenuSYS, Pinhead, Super Colendar Batch Startup, Auto Sort, Postmortem, No Bombs, E-Disk, 9 Quick Utilifies. 'A'. UTIL 6
- Jam Packer 4, Wind-KES (Modulator control panel), Satellite 4,01, Clack Set. "A".
 German to English translator, fast Print, DC Salvage, MiNT, Maccel 3.0. "A".
 Printer Drivers inc Canon Bubblejet, Gume Dajsywheel, Brother + Epson. "A". IIII 12 UTIL 13
- TITI 16
- Finite Univers in C Canon o Goolete, Courne Vallsymeer, cromer + Cpson. A. .

 Chameleon loads and unloads accessories without having to reboot, Sticker 3.0 (H1),

 Definitive File Selector, Super Virus Killer, Benchmark. 1^A1.

 Your Secand Manual, Jokes, GDOS info, Bombs info + several magazines. 1^A1.

 Superboot 8.1, Build Your Own Scanner, Report Writer, Disk Cleoner. 1^A1. IIII 19 LIII 30
- Cheerah 1.1 (high speed copying util), Rainbow TOS patches, Unarj 2.2. 'A'.
 Printer Drivers inc: KXP 1124, Star LC24, NEC Pinwriter, Brother, Canon, Citizen, HP UTIL 38
- Deskijer, Oki, Gume, Taxon, Todhiba, Riteman, Astri. 14.

 Loods of pockers inc: Atomik 3.5, Automation 5, Dragon 3, Fire 2, Ice 2.4, Pompey 1.9, Speed Pocker 2, Branch Always Pocker. + Multi Depocker 1.5. 14. UTIL 40
- Intro Maker mix pictures, sprites, scrolls and music together. Colour only. Kaas Desk 2.01, Terra Desktop 1.36 replacement desktops. 'A'. IIII 42
- UTIL 45 - STOS Shoot em up builder kit 0.6 - colour only.
 - TOS Version 1.0 - allows you to run programs that don't run on your TOS. 'A'. LITTL A6
- UTIL S3 UTIL 54
- ILOS Version I.U allows you to run programs that don't run on your ICOs. A
 Message Scroller, Archiver Shells, Envelope Printer Demo, Mega Cracker. 'A'.
 Revenge Doc Displayer 3.0, Wordfinder 3.0, Desktop.inf configurator. 'A'.
 Carrier Themes Inventory and Personality Tester: great funl
 Neodesk patches upgrades 3.01 to 3.02 and 3.02 to 3.03. 'A'.
 IC Label 1.3, Jon-Dos 1.7, Flowchart Compiler, Boot Time 2.0, Multisync. 'A'. UTIL 57 LIIII 59
- UTIL 60 BJ Chrome 1.1, Desk Master, Grocery Lister, Silk Mouse, Auto Load, Blitz. 'A'. UTIL 62 Nation X utility disk - over 150 programs! Everything you need to get you started! Includes disk utils, diany, virus killer, packers etc. - highly recommended! 'A'. UTIL 66
- Label CAD 2.2 design cards, posters etc. Tongus y econfidences A. Label CAD 2.2 design cards, posters etc. Document files on UTIL 68. 14'. Route Finder 1.8 Like Authoroute plans journeys for you, SpiritEO 1.3, Die UHR. 'A'. Award moker easy to use program to create certificates with nice fonts, borders. Idealist 3.4 file printer that saves up to 80% of poper used! 2 disks 23.50. 'A'. UTII 67 UTIL 74
- **UTIL 75** Before Dawn 1,25 - Idest and biggest version of this screen sover. 2 disks \$3.50.

 Spectrum Games - a disk full of games to go with the emulator on Util SS. 'A'.

 Terradisk 1,38 (latest), X-Jet 097, Curtains - protect your ST from snoopers. 'A'. UTIL 77 **UTIL 79**
- UTIL 82
 - Beropress 2.6 create posters, banners, gift cards, letters etc. "H".
 Spectrum Emulator 2.07 latest version 2 disks + example progs. 1 meg+. £3.50.

MUSIC & MIDI

- Noisetracker 1.S a popular soundtracker creator with samples & source.
- Samples disk 1 works with most soundtracker creators. MUSIC 2
- Hacker voice sets and songs for use with Quartet.

 Appeggiator, Zeppelin, MIDI Beat, Project, Jukebox, MKS-50. 'A'.

 Henry Cosh Sequencer, Composer, 'A'. MUSIC 7 MUSIC 11
- MUSIC 12
- Drum Patterns for Cu-Base in standard MIDI format. 'A'. MUSIC 13 MUSIC 16
- Yamoha PSS790 Editor, includes loads of sample voices.

 Alchemie Junior 2.2 sequencer with real-time, multitasking etc. "H". MUSIC 22 Sound Merlin - good ex-commercial program, Mazart's Dice Waltz · compose music MUSIC 23
- without musical knowledge. "H". Octalyser 8-track tracker STE only, Protracker 2.1, YM Tracker MUSIC 24
- PSS Utilities disk, loads of programs including patch editor, librarian etc. 'A'.
 Casio CZ sounds, 32-track sequencer, Kawai K1 editor, MIDI menu. 'A'. MUSIC 26
- MUSIC 29 - Kawai K1 synth sounds. 'A'. - SOX 1.0, Midi Mover, TX81z Editor, Real Drumming. 'A'
- MUSIC 32
- MUSIC 34
- SOX 1.0, Midi Mover, T.Kil z Editor, Red Drumming. 'A'.
 Tri-Sound Sequencer (Not STE), Disc Play 2.45, In control.
 OTX File Reader 0.1, DTX Cataloguer 1.0, G-Play 3, Male One, Separate. 'A'.
 SOS 6.4, Guitor Professional, Uniplay, Play Em 1.0, YM21.49 Editor. 'A'.
 Roland 'O' Series Sound Banks for DS, 010, 020, 0110 and GR synths. 'A'.
 Roland 'O' Series Sound Banks for DS, 010, 020, 0110 and GR synths. 'A'.
 Midi Slep 1.2 1 megh 16 track sequencer for step-time music operation.
 790 Dump, 5T Sound 2 record, play, compress and edit samples.
 SSP PD Vaicepack patches for the Roland GM-70, TX81.z, Roland D110. MUSIC 36
- MUSIC 38

EDUCATION

- EDUC 1 - Kid Music, Kid Notes, Kid Piana, Kid Puzzle, Kid Graph, Rebus Writer.
- EDUC 7 EDUC 9 - Michael's Big Adventure - colourful graphics, easy to play. Age 8+.
 - Bodyshop, Computer School 2 & 3, Butterfly in the Park.
- EDUC 20 Easter Egg Hunt pleasant adventure for 7-12 yrs without violence etc.

 EDUC 21 G.C.S.E. Higher Maths Grade Tutor, Franglais 3 French Tutor.

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- + weights & meassures and a complete chemistry reference book! £6.50.

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PROGRAMMING

- Sozobon C Compiler release 2. Includes documentation, shell etc. \$2.50.
 GNU C++ Kit Hard Drive + 2.5meg required, not for novices! 5 disks \$8.00.
 Professional GEM guide 17 chapters of tutorial with C source.
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 GFA Basis v 2-0 GFA Expert on itse GFA Basis tutorial.
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Ridiculous copyright

I write this letter with a few things on my mind - to start with I believe copyright on items within the public domain is ridiculous.

I have a Robocop demo, a Star Trek demo and a Tom and Jerry demo.

These programs and any that use samples and animation like the Snowman demo are a fantastic way of advertising the hardware, the software and the movie, or whatever.

TV/video people spend thousands of pounds on adverts, yet when offered free adverts complain.

I know that when my kids see the Snowman demo they go and watch the video, or in the case of Robocop cannot wait until they are old enough to watch it.

I also want to say to Atari, pull your fingers out. I was at the trade show in April and asked MicroProse, Microdeal and Europress Software whether they still supported the Atari.

The answer came back "no we're only doing Amiga and PC". What's going on - are Atari owners being dumped?

Atari magazines are now published by those companies producing Amiga titles and carry adverts for Amigas and PCs.

Does this indicate to you, like it does to me, that Atari are going the way of Sinclair C5 - a collectors' piece? I hope not.

I hope to start my own public domain library/digitising service to get me employed and to keep a channel open to all the new/old users of the Atari ST.

I digitise photos and save them on disk, as well as scanning images and grabbing sound sample. This is all done within the PD library which I hope to get up and running soon.

> A Robson, Digi_View, 21 Queens Rood, Ookhom, Rutlond, LE15 6ED.

Whether you ogree or disogree with putting somples of chort sounds or digitised images from movies into the public domoin is irrelevant.

In the eyes of the low it's illegol. The fact that music is replayed through a computer speoker rother than hi-fi doesn't reolly matter – it's still been

When the ST was selling well, Atori didn't seem too concerned obout who was developing softwore ond hordwore for the plotform.

One of the biggest grumbles from developers was always the lock of support they got from Atori. I don't reolly expect the monufocturer's ottitude to chonge now they ore putting most of their effort into

Got anything to say to the ST community? Then this is your soapbox

VITA

the Joguor. The foct that Atari mogozine publishers olso produce Amigo titles doesn't imply onything, except that they wont to moke more money.

Publishers of news-stond Atori mogozines olso produce mogozines for Amigos, PCs, gomes consoles ond o whole ronge of other

Moving on up

I have swapped by Mega Drive for an Atari 520STFM, which I upgraded to IMb. Please could you answer some questions?

Are Atari STs going out of use and is the Amiga better? And I would like to know why the Atari is renowned for good music but the Amiga has better sound.

What can I do to make the sound better? Is it possible to amplify the music with an amplifier? What cables would I need to do this?

R Cowton, Gwynedd

The foct that you swopped your console for o computer suggests that you wont to do more with the mochine thon just ploy gomes.

The ST is on ideal introduction to home computing. It's got on eosy to use interfoce, and a huge catalogue of softwore opplications ovoilable.

its populority is woning, however, ond the few new mochines coming into the country ore usually only sold by specialist computer deolers.

That doesn't meon that yours won't serve you well for mony yeors to come, or that the Amigo is better. The mochines ore different ond ore better ot different things.

In the music industry the ST hos ruled for mony yeors - but I think you hove o slight misunderstonding os to why this is so. The STFM's built-in sound chip is not os good os the Amigo's but the ST con be connected stroight into Midi equipment used by professional musicions and mokes the ideal studio componion.

Going on-line

I am interested in joining the increasing number of people going on-line, mainly so that I can keep up to date with my computing hobby.

There are many types of modems and bulletin boards, available but I really don't have a clue about what I should be looking for before joining. Can you give any advice?

P Summers, Derby

There's never been o better time to get hooked up to o bulletin boord. Modem prices hove tumbled during the last year, ond telephone charges have olso been

Fost modems will cost you more in the short term, but as time posses and you spend less time on-line os o result of their speed, you will see sovings in phone

As for the system you choose to occess, thot's reolly down to personal choice. There ore plenty of bulletin boards that ore free to occess, but expect to pay for big on-line

Of these, CompuServe hove o vost range of conferences, news sections, financial reports, trovel information - in fact procticolly onything you could wont to get hold of.

But for o more comprehensive read about how to get on-line ond whot you'll find once there, check out our special communicotions feature due in next month's issue.

To join the ST chat show drop a line to The Editor, Write Now, Atari ST User, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SKI0 4NP

Waiting to hear form you...

Group support

Atari user groups are, in my opinion, valuable resources that seem to be disregarded as sources of both assistance and inspiration.

Assistance because many of the questions that seem to crop up regularly in the problem pages can be best answered by a simple "hands on" demonstration.

Inspiration because you can be sure that there are as many different ways to do things as there are members at the meeting.

There's an easy way to see if there is a group near you by ringing Ken Ward of the Association of Atari User Groups on 0603 661149.

Derryck Croker, Wotford

£25

Prize

.etter

There ore mony user groups ocross the country offering excellent support for the ST. If you wont to meet up with some fellow enthusiosts why not get in touch with Ken?

Calamus calamity

I recently managed to obtain a second-hand copy of Calamus 1.09 from a computer sale at my local social club.

The package is totally legitimate with the serial number on the disks. However, I am having a few problems with importing graphics and printing.

I tried contacting the Signa address in the manual but I haven't received any reply from them. Have they moved and, if so, what is their new address and (preferably) telephone number?

P Moore, Glasgow

Signa are na langer around, having disappeared same time bock. The current distributars of the Calamus range are ICA Eurape. Yau can cantact them an 0734 452416.

Be sure ta have the serial number on your disk ready and ask if you can register your copy with them. That way, yau will receive news updotes an the latest Calomus products and developments.

New keys please

I think the keyboard of my STFM is very boring. A friend of mine once had a computer which she spruced up by buying replacement keytops which were coloured.

Are there any replacement keytops available for my computer? If not, I'll have to see what I can do with some felt tips.

Sarah Hampton (aged 12), Sussex

Hald the felt tip plans Saroh. The ink will not "stick" very well to plastic and you will end up with multi-coloured fingers ond a messy keyboard.

Ask your porents to give System Solutions a coll an 0753 818816. They have colour caded keys ta replace every key an the STFM's "baring" keybaard. They cast £29.95.

Auto errors

After reading about AUTO folders and running programs from them, I still have problems with some programs which crash my machine when I try to run them automatically.

One of them is First Word Plus, which always crashes if I run it from the AUTO folder, but works fine if I double click on it. What am I doing wrong?

P Selby, Yorkshire

Yau mustn't put GEM pragroms in the AUTO falder. GEM pragrams are any programs which use windows ond menus.

Check the dacumentation of any programs yau wish ta put in the AUTO falder as they usually state whether they will wark fram there.

Essentially thaugh, anly TOS-based progroms (those that do not use GEM) shauld be put in the AUTO falder. This canfusian is nat helped by the fact that programs in the AUTO falder have ta end with .PRG and not .TOS.

Falcon buyer

I am thinking of buying an Atari Falcon in the near future. I am particularly interested in its graphics capabilities for use with 3D graphics rendering programs.

However, I'm not sure which is the right Falcon model for me. I know the IMb is the cheapest but I'm not sure if this is the right choice. Can you give me some advice?

L Taggart, Devan

I would forget obout the IMb version if I were yau. It just daesn't have enaugh memory to run ony serious opplications that deal with graphics. In the higher and it's now useless. I tried the supplier where I got my upgrade from and they told me it would cost about £30. I can't afford that kind of money for a chip, but I really need one. Can

S Slater, Leeds

Sarry Mr Slater, but £30 is quite a gaad price and you wan't really find it any

Hawever, ane af aur readers aut there moy be in possession of such a chip and may be willing to do you a deal.

Sa, if anyone can help Mr Slater, get in tauch and I will pass an the infarmation.

Star printer

I have recently acquired a second-hand 520STFM. All I really want it for is word processing. I need a printer and have seen a Star LC10 9-pin at a reasonable price in the shops.

Is it compatible? The salesman said I needed a disk. Where would I get it and how do I go about getting it to work?

Can you recommend a word processing

avice

screen mades, such as 256 calour, the screen can take up 700k plus af RAM just ta display the screen, thereby leaving next to nathing far any graphics progroms.

Ideolly, for serious rendering wark, yau should loak ot getting the 4Mb model, with future plans ta buy a 68882 math copracessar and memary upgrade, such as the FalcanWING 14Mb upgrade from System Solutians (0753 818816).

Stuffed shifter

I have a big problem. I am 21 years of age and have just bought an Atari 520 STFM. I had just about got to know what most things did and meant, when I decided to upgrade my ST to

I had to remove the shifter chip (No. C 070713-602) but one of the pins has broken package? I would be very grateful for any help that can get me started.

S Corbett, Dartfard

Ga ahead and get the printer. The Stor range af printers is tatally Epson campatible, which is what you should look for when buying any printer.

All ward pracessars warth their salt suppart Epsan ar campatible printers sa yau should have no prablem with the Star LCIO.

The disk the salesman mentianed is irrelevont, and somewhot confusing. Yau simply need to ensure that the word processor you decide an getting far the ST cames with Epson printer drivers. There should be no worries here os neorly oll word processors

As for chaice of ward processor, it

Reader solutions

We had many replies from readers with a solution to the problems Mr K Blake from Manchester was having in extracting a 800k archive file with only a floppy drive system (March '94 Advice Service).

All the solutions involved installing as large a RAMdisk as possible and extracting it from there.

All letters were passed on to Mr Blake whose reply to you jolly helpful lot is printed below.

I wauld like ta thank the many peaple wha respanded ta my orchive dilemmo via Atari ST User's Advice Service.

Unfartunately, I anly had 2Mb in my 1040STE and was unable

ta extract the camplete archive, but I did manage to extroct a number of files befare the RAMdisk filled up.

Ta end on a hoppy note however, I met another ST enthusiast wha lives na less thon 16 doors owoy on my treet ond who alsa read my letter in your mogozine.

Much ta my delight, he has twa massive 240Mb SCSI hard disks connected to his equally impressive 4Mb Mega STE and he happily extracted everything far me. The archive actually contoined over 3Mb af pragrams!

Agoin, mony thanks to bath Atari ST User and all their helpful and knawledgeoble reoders. Keep up the good work.

K Blake, Manchester

Hadley hassles Oh deor, things oren't going too well on the ST front ot the Hodley household

Dodgy lead

I own an Atari 1040STE with external drive and Citizen printer. I use a TV as my monitor with the lead supplied but it keeps falling out.

Is there another lead on the market which will fit the Atari socket better? Also, I am thinking of buying a hard drive for my computer. Can you give me any tips on what to look for?

A Hodley, Fowey, Cornwall

It seems your lead is just a little too loose. If you look at the bit which plugs into the ST's socket, you will see that it has a small "pin" surrounded by four metol "bits" which form the shielding.

These metal bits also provide some grip when the lead is plugged into the ST's socket. I would guess they have been slightly pushed outword, cousing the connection to be less thon snug.

Try gently pressing them towards the centre using a pair of pliers (be coreful not to push them too for). This should hopefully moke the connection more secure.

Drive disaster

I own an Atari 520STFM with an external drive and for the past few months, any new software which I have ordered hasn't worked in either drive. I have either been given the message "Drive not responding" or it just won't work at all. The games work perfectly on another

1040STE. Also, when I try to make a back-up copy of some disks, they refuse to copy. Is there any PD program that will allow me to copy

P | Hadley, Fawey, Carnwall

Oh deor, you seem to be hoving o more serious problem thon Adrion ond his dodgy TV leod. Thonks to the use of Adrion's 1040STE, you have managed to eliminate the possibility that the octual softwore disks ore ot foult, which meons the problem is with the hordwore.

The problem could be coused by dirt on the drive heads, but this is unlikely to hoppen to two drives, especially considering I hove never hod to cleon the heods of my Mego ST's disk drive in four yeors! If cleoning the heods doesn't get rid of the problem, the components inside your ST that handle floppy drive occess may be ot foult.

You may have to send it off to an outhorised Atori service centre. Check out our odvertisers, such os Lodbroke Computing ond System Solutions, who both offer Atori-opproved repair and upgrade services.

Your copying problem is probobly reloted to the some foult. However, should you get the drives fixed, look for FostCopy 3 in the public domoin. It's one of the fostest and eosiest to use ST

depends on your needs. For fost production of text documents with excellent spell checking ond thesourus feotures, Protext v6 is the choice.

However, Protext does not use olternotive fonts, so if you wont o ronge of quolity fonts to choose from os well os WYSIWYG feoture ond spell checking, Thot's Write 2 (with Thot's Write 3 imminent) is o good buv.

WYSIWYG is on ocronym for "whot you see is whot you get", meoning that your documents disployed on screen will show the different fonts ond styles (bold, itolic etc) ond will print exoctly os you see it on the screen.

Thot's Write 2 is ovoilable from Compo Softwore and costs £129. Protext is ovoiloble in two versions. Version 4.3 is the cheopest ond less sophisticoted costing £49.95, while v6 is vostly superior ond costs £152.75 from Arnor (0733 68909)

Hard drive cleanup

I have a Mega STE with a recently acquired 240Mb hard drive. I wish to know of some useful utilities for backing up and generally maintaining the data on my hard drive in case of problems. Also, a friend suggested I get a boot manager utility. What exactly is a boot manager and what will it do for me?

My hard drive is a Quantum model and I use Atari's latest hard drive utilities.

G Sutherland, Swindon

Two essential utilities for backup and moin-

tenonce of hord drives ore Diomond Edge and Diamond Back, both from HiSoft on 0525 718181.

Diomond Edge is o powerful pockoge offering monogement, optimisotion, repoir ond diognostic tools for mointoining your doto on both floppy ond hord drives.

Diomond Bock is on equally powerful bock-up utility pocked with feotures which moke the bock-up process poinless ond eosy. It's olso very fost.

Alternotively try the ICD Pro, o hord disk driver with numerous tools including o utility colled Cleonup, which does o similar job to Diomond Edge.

On the cheoper side, there ore two hord drive bock-up progroms in the PD colled Turtle ond Voult. I've never hod experience

with them but I hove heord good comments from people who hove, so check them out if you ore on o budget.

The boot monoger utility is o progrom thot simplifies the organisation and loading of specific occessories and AUTO folder progroms which you moy hove.

Two of the moin progroms in this oreo ore Superboot, o great sharewore utility ond the commercial program Xboot, ogoin from HiSoft.

They ore useful becouse you moy wish to lood certoin combinotions of occessories ond AUTO progroms for different sessions ond opplications.

Doing this without o boot monoger would involve tedious renoming of occessories to .ACX (so it won't lood) insteod of .ACC ond the some with AUTO folder progroms from .PRG to .PRX.

The boot monoger will ollow you to ossign certoin sets of occessories to specific opplications as well as provide o menu system for quickly looding progroms.

Got a problem?

Are you at the point of taking an axe to your ST? Do you want to pulverise your printer? Well just count to ten and relax. Then, jot down the problems you are having, along with a detailed description of your setup.

Include information on the type of ST you have, the TOS version (if known), what peripherals are attached and any extra hardware that lurks inside your computer (accelerators, graphics cards and so on) and I'll do my very best to come up with a solution.

For those who have had problems and overcome them, chances are that someone somewhere is having the same problems and would benefit from your advice.

So get in print and send any tips or suggestions that other users may find helpful to: Darren Evans, Advice Service, Atari ST User, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SKI0 4NP

ver since the advent of the Atari ST one thing which was universally and instantly disliked was the keyboard. Almost everyone agrees that, in spite of all the wonderful things that can be said about the ST, its keyboard leaves a lot to be desired.

The keys are too close together because the key tops are too wide and this often results in the user accidentally pressing two keys together. But the worst shortcoming is that there is no tactile feedback - the finger does not "feel" the click when the key is pressed.

Instead, one gets a "mushy" feel which is why the ST keyboard is often described as "rubbery". This was remedied somewhat with the TT and the Mega STE but the majority of ST owners are still left with an unsatisfactory keyboard.

There were several attempts by third party companies to provide replacement keyboards but most did not do this in a transparent fashion.

The most common method involved plugging an adapter into one of the external ports, such as the Midi, and loading driver software to fool the operating system and get the keys from this alternate source. This never really worked because - besides loosing a port - many programs do not cooperate with the OS.

Galactic take a different approach with Perfect Keys by actually replacing the keyboard itself. The new keyboard plugs into the keyboard port directly for a totally transparent replacement.

On the one hand this means no fragile software drivers are needed and the ST is not even aware that there is a different keyboard attached to it. On the other hand this also means the computer may have to be opened. However, with no soldering involved, the result of this approach is very satisfactory.

If you have a Mega STE or a TT, the computer doesn't even need to be opened because the Perfect Keys interface simply plugs into the external keyboard

Pluses:

- + no soldering
- + no ports occupied
- + no software drivers
- + full transparency
- easy access to mouse/joy ports + Microsoft mouse

 - + auto fire built-in + detachable keyboard

Minuses:

- may have to open computer slightly modified keyboard layout



The complete Perfect Keys 2.0 package contains a modified Cherry keyboard as well as two connectors; regular ST connector on the bottom and Mega ST(e)/TT connector on top

port. The procedure of installing a new keyboard, on a 1040 for example, involves opening the computer by removing the screws on the bottom. The computer must then be turned over right side up. Be sure, however, to remove all screws or you will watch in horror as they scatter all

Once the computer is right side up, its top must be carefully eased off. This is particularly tricky around the floppy drive area on a 1040 type housing, as the floppy eject button tends to get in the way.

REVEAL

Removing the top will most likely reveal the RF shield. It may or may not be necessary to remove this as well depending on the ST model you happen to have. The RF shield is held in place by an irrational number of screws and there is also a number of twist clamps which will have to be straightened out.

Because of all this hassle, many people leave this shield permanently off which improves air circulation and keeps the computer running cool. However, if you or your neighbours start experiencing interference on their TV, for example, you may need to put the RF shield back in.

The ST keyboard itself is not fixed to

the housing of the computer and may simply be lifted off. However, you will notice a multi-strand cable leading from the right side of the keyboard to the motherboard

This cable is quite short so you may need an extra pair of hands to hold the keyboard or place the keyboard upside down next to the computer. Unplug the keyboard connector from the motherboard. This connector varies on different ST models and may have between 6 and 18 pins. You can then safely remove the keyboard.

All that is left now is to plug in the Perfect Keys keyboard cable. This is a fairly short cable which and is threaded through the mouse/joystick hole. There are two of these cables supplied depending on the type of ST computer you have. One has a 6-pin flat connector and this is what you plug into the motherboard. The other is for TT/Mega STE which has a telephone-style connector and is plugged in without opening the computer.

If you wish you can now put the old ST keyboard back in but, naturally, leave it disconnected. This may require you to cut a small opening for the Perfect Keys cable. Following a brief test to check that everything is functioning correctly you can then close the computer and screw the top on.



Installing Perfect Keys involves, first of all, removing the cover



Next step is to take off the ST keyboard. This is done by first lifting the keyboard to get access to the keyboard connector

After you have removed the keyboard connector insert the Perfect Keys connector. The guide pin helps with plugging it in correctly. Thread the cable through the mouse port



facts

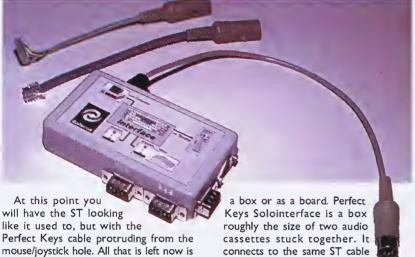
Fed up of getting your fingers caught in the ST's clumsy keyboard? Perfect Keys could be the answer, says Don Maple

keyboard. The Perfect

ports

Keys Interface has all three

mouse/joystick



connects to the same ST cable as the keyboard models.

There are four ports on the box, one for an external AT-style keyboard of your choice and the three mouse/joystick ports identical to those on the integrated version. Two of these are Atari compatible and the third is, again, Microsoft mouse compatible.

The Solointerface board alone - without the box - is intended for people who have put their ST in a tower case and contains all the necessary adapter cables.

Which version of Perfect Keys you choose depends on your current setup. If you already have an AT keyboard lying around or have your eyes set on a particular keyboard you should get the Solointerface.

This is also recommended if you already have a PC-compatible, since you can then use its AT keyboard for both computers. If you also get a keyboard switch box you needn't even do any (un)plugging when switching between the two computers. You'll also save a considerable amount of desk space by using the same keyboard for both computers when safely tucked away.

On the other hand if you just want a detachable keyboard for your ST, the PF 2.0 or Tracky are more appropriate. This will also give you a self-contained, all-in-one unit. Once you start using the new AT-

style keyboard the only difference you will notice - other than much more comfort-Also available able typing - is that some Atari-unique is a standalone keys are not immediately apparent. For unit for people example: who already have an AT

Help - [Print screen] Undo - [Pause Break]

The Alternate and Control keys are swapped on an AT keyboard but everything else is by and large in the same place. The manual explains the differences in

You also get access to high resolution mouses (NOT mice!) as the interface supports more than 200 dpi. And you can use a Microsoft-compatible serial mouse if you so choose. This means you get access to all those fancy mouses available for PC compatibles.

The mouse and joystick ports are easily accessible instead of being "access protected" as is the case on a 1040. The interface also helps you play games by having a built-in auto-fire with adjustable firing speed! What more could you ask

CONFIGURATIONS

AT-style keyboard of your choice.

Perfect Keys comes in several different configurations which can basically be divided into two groups: with the interface already built in or with it provided externally. Galactic offers two types of AT-style keyboards with the interface already built in: Perfect Keys 2.0 AT-keyboard and

to connect the standalone interface to this

cable or - if you have an integrated

Perfect Keys model - connect the

keyboard directly. In the case of a stand-

alone interface you then plug into in any

Perfect Keys 2.0 AT-keyboard is a standard AT style keyboard which has been modified by Galactic not only to include the interface but it contains three ports at the back. These ports are the usual Atari mouse and joystick ports plus a third which is a Microsoft-compatible mouse

Tracky is identical to the Perfect Keys 2.0 except that instead of the cursor block it contains a trackball. This trackball can be used as a replacement mouse and rolling the ball moves the mouse pointer.

The external or standalone models of Perfect Keys include the interface either in

Fully compatible ST

keyboard with additional Microsoft mouse port and

EASE OF USE

Simple installation without soldering, Deviates slightly from ST layout but provides

VALUE FOR MONEY

Taking into account features and ease of use, this is very good value.

Good Average Appalling

Excellent Average Bad Appalling

Average Bad Appalling

Product: Perfect Keys 2.0 Supplier: CGS ComputerBild, 231 Northborough Road, Norbury,

London SW16 4TU Telephone: 061-679 7307 Perfect Keys £139 Tracky £149

Interface £69



Replace the ST cover. The original ST keyboard, now disconnected, can remain in place. However, if you do that you need to drill a hole for the Perfect Keys cable



All that is left now is to attach the mouse and the joystick. Both connect to the keyboard directly and you can safely place the computer out of the way



Looking at the back, Perfect Keys keyboard reveals the standard ST mouse and joystick ports as well as a Microsoft-compatible mouse port

e've looked at several direct-to-disk recording programs for the Falcon over the last year or so, but Cubase Audio for the Falcon is the first to integrate d-t-d with a fully-fledged sequencer. The package is, in fact, a version of Cubase Score with the addition of eight tracks of audio recording.

As you may know, the Falcon's DSP (Digital Signal Processor) allows it to perform direct-to-disk recording without the need for any additional hardware such as the digital audio card required by a Mac or a PC.

Given the relatively low cost of the computer itself, this makes the Falcon a prime candidate on which to base an affordable d-t-d system. And that's exactly what Steinberg have done.

There's simply not room here to look at the Midi sequencing side of Cubase in any detail. Suffice to say the program has been one of the leading sequencers for many years.

One of its main attractions is the pattern-based Arrange screen in which sections of music appear as oblong blocks which can be dragged around with the mouse to create a finished song. It's very easy and intuitive. What's really good about Falcon Audio is that it lets you work with audio data in much the same way.



toce

The first thing you need to know is that the program is protected by a dongle which plugs into the cartridge port - a nuisance, but there you are.

There is also a CAC (Cubase Audio Clock) device which plugs into the Falcon's DSP port. This allows the program to record at 44.1kHz, the standard CD recording rate, which the Falcon alone cannot do. If you opt for the FDI (Falcon Digital Interface), you plug this into the DPS port instead.

Let's run through a typical recording process. To record an audio track you simply select a track and use the track type column to make it an audio one. Bring up the Monitors window, select the channel you want to record on and enter a filename for the audio data.

You can also start recording by clicking on the Record button, in which case the program will prompt for a filename. You can record additional tracks in the same way and existing tracks - both audio and Midi - can playback during recording or you can mute them.

You need to assign tracks to one of the eight audio channels for playback. You can record in stereo by setting the channel number to 'any'. In this case the recording always uses channels one and two but you can play them back on two other channels.

Audio tracks appear alongside Midi ones and can be edited in much the same

way using the same set of eight tools which pop up when you press the right mouse button. You can set punch in and out points, and cut, copy and paste sections of the track.

You can have any number of audio tracks in a song although only eight can play back at once.

FLEXIBLE

In fact, you can record as many files as your hard disk will hold and these can be shown in a window called the Audio Pool.

From here they can be dragged onto the Arrange page so you can use any audio file in any song. Great! Each file can actually be made up from several smaller segments so the system is very flexible indeed.

After laying down a few tracks, you may want to edit them, and the program has an excellent Audio Editor which works much like a sample waveform editor. If you've used one of the ST Replay samplers you'll be on familiar ground here. You can see several audio tracks in the editor at the same time.

You have a set of eight tools to work with similar, although not identical, to those on the Arrange screen. You can cut and paste between tracks, delete

Disks and data

To run Cubase Audio on the Falcon you must have an external SCSI hard disk - you cannot record to the internal IDE drive. Depending on your requirements you'll need a large disk and a fast one.

A mono recording will use 5Mb of disk space per minute. A stereo recording (using two tracks) will use 10Mb per minute. Add up the number of tracks you need and you will find, for example, that a fourminute, six-track recording requires 120Mb of disk space.

In practice you will probably not need this much as there will probably be gaps in the audio data, but the figures provide a good indication of the size of disk you should be looking for.

The speed of the disk is also important in determining how many tracks the program can play back at once. To be able to play back four tracks you need a disk with an average access time of 22-23ms and a true DTR (Data Transfer Rate) of at least 800k/s. To play back six or eight tracks the disk needs an access time of 12-15ms and a DTR of 1600k/s.

Some hard disks have an Automatic Recalibration feature which performs internal adjustments at various intervals. This can result in a 'HD Too Slow!' message popping up. You should avoid such drives if possible otherwise hiccups may occur.



The untouchable FDI

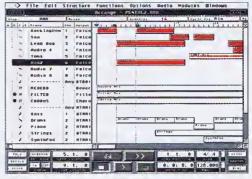
The FDI (Falcon Digital Interface) plugs into the DSP port in place of the CAC and has both optical and digital Ins and Outs for connection to a DAT, a sampler or other digital device.

If you have a DAT you will probably get better sound quality if you record through it instead of the Falcon's audio sockets, as the DAT will likely have better Analogue-to-Digital converters.

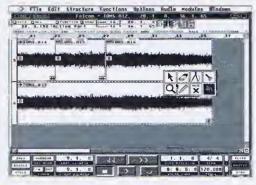
The FDI does not currently support the 48kHz rate used by many DAT recorders but this is promised - along with support for other samples rates - in the next update.

The FDI comes with a couple of useful utilities. One converts an .AIF file from stereo to mono and vice versa. The other is one of the most vital parts of any d-t-d system - it lets you stream audio files to and from a DAT recorder.

If you don't opt for an FDI, you must consider what you are going to do with the audio data on your hard disk. Do you trash it when you start a new song? What if you want to do a remix a few months on? Do you back up to floppies? Rather you than me.

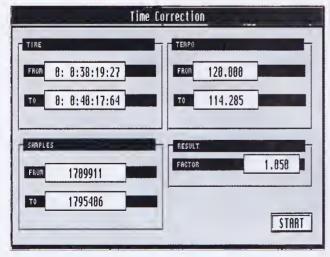


Audio tracks blend seamlessly with Midi tracks in the Arrange screen



The Audio Editor lets you cut, copy and paste sections of audio tracks and you can work on several tracks at once

alcon music



The Time Stretch function will change the length of an audio track without altering its pitch

events and import sounds from the Audio Pool. The program creates a file of the audio data and also a file which contains a graphic representation of it, so scrolling through the waveform is very fast indeed.

It's quite easy to build up a library of sounds, rather like those you might create within a sampler, and use them in several songs. This is ideal for Dance and similar styles of music which use short repetitive samples.

As with Midi tracks, you can create ghost copies of audio tracks. Any changes made to the original are automatically applied to the ghosts, too. Another excellent feature is the ability to draw volume curves under the audio data. This is in addition to controlling the volume from the mixer (coming up in a moment).

One of the problems with manipulating Midi and audio data is keeping them in sync. Audio data in the program has a 'Q' marker which is used for snapping the event to a musical position during move and quantise operations.

You can match Cubase's tempo to a recorded track and you can time lock



The Audio Pool lists the audio files and segments which you can drag into the Arrange page and Audio Editor



The Midi Mixer lets you automate the mixing process. This shows the Filter section which offers three-band EQ, pan and volume control

Falcon mods

Before you use your Falcon with Cubase Audio, you need to make a couple of modifications to it. The first is a CPU clock buffer mod which is an essential modification for virtually all Falcons.

Without it, under certain conditions distortion can occur and the computer can hang. The other mods remove the bass boost and make the audio sockets Line level which will improve the sound quality.

These mods are suggested by Atari themselves and may eventually be incorporated into new machines. The manual gives brief instructions on the latter mods but you are advised to contact a dealer to perform the first mod or if you don't want to mess around with the insides of your machine.

tracks, too, which is useful if you need to sync to video. This is not only useful for music but also for syncing to sound effects. The program can also generate SMPTE timecode.

One of the unique aspects of Falcon Audio is that you can specify three ways of handling the audio data - hard disk, RAM and sampler. Hard disk is the normal setting which we have already discussed.

Audio files assigned to RAM are automatically loaded into RAM when you open a song. Unlike hard disk files, they can reside on the Falcon's internal hard disk.

Sampler channels let you trigger audio files in real-time from a Midi keyboard and record your performance for playback later on. Sampler channels playback from RAM, too. You really need rather more that the standard 4Mb of RAM to make full use of these facilities.

The program has many more interesting features. For example, you can mixdown several audio tracks into a single mono or stereo track. This isn't reversible, however, so make sure your data is backed up first.

A built-in mixer allows you to automate any mixing process. It can also add three types of digital effect - reverb, chorus and EQ. Each channel has its own effects-send, pan pot and volume control. The EQ lets you adjust Hi, Mid and Lo frequencies and is very useful for tweaking a recording. The effects aren't quite up to those you'd find on a standalone unit but that's to be expected.

The program also has a Time Stretch facility which alters the length of a recording without changing the pitch. It works directly on a file on the hard disk, actually making a copy of it using the Falcon's DSP. You can change the length of the file by a percentage or based on its tempo, time code length or the number of samples it contains.

It's a fairly quick process and takes abut two and a half times the length of the file - about a minute and a half for a 30 second file, for example. Short stretches sound fine but if you take it to extremes, the quality will suffer.

The manual is large and extensive, covering both the audio and the sequencing sides of the program. Basic operation is easy but the program houses a wealth of features and you will need to take time to sit down with the manual to discover them all.

The main niggle - more an observation really - is that the program can seem to run a little slow at times. NVDI, the screen driver, helps, but you could always add a hardware accelerator to

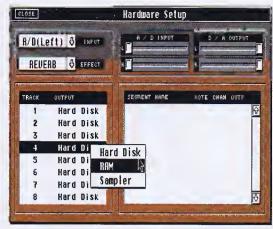
Some of the program's functions could be improved, and added to more digital processing, for example but no doubt improvements will come with future upgrades.

DREAM

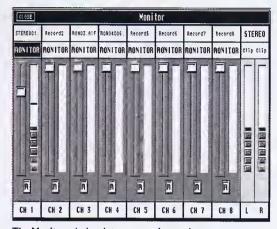
Falcon Audio is the sort of package which low-cost computers, inexpensive hard disks and digital audio technology promised the musician a few years ago. Slowly but surely we've been heading down a rather long road and at last we can see the light. No - we are actually standing underneath it.

Falcon Audio is a home studio owner's dream - a totally integrated Midi and audio sequencing package and all the bits will still leave you change from £2500. Expensive? Not really when you consider that a quality four-track tape-based portastudio could set you back £700 and most four or eight-track d-t-d systems for the PC cost about £2500 - and that's without the computer!

There's currently nothing else like Cubase Audio on the Falcon although Emagic's Logic Audio will be arriving



In the Hardware Setup window you can assign tracks to the hard disk, RAM or sampler. You can also specify reverb, chorus or filter effects



The Monitor window lets you monitor and balance the audio tracks during playback

very soon. But Falcon Audio is the first and it will be the one by which the others will be judged. For anyone already using Cubase it has to be the most desirable upgrade this year.

 Mony thonks to Lodbroke Computing for the loon of o LPS270S drive for the durotion of this review. The 270Mb drive has a Quantum mechanism with a 256k on-board cache and on access time of 16ms. For the Falcon it costs £389.99 including the connection cable. Ladbroke can be contocted on 0772 203166.

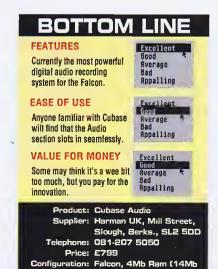
Sixteen-track recording

As mentioned in May's Frankfurt Music Fair report, Falcon Audio will soon support 16 tracks of digital audio, probably by the time you read this. The update will simply become part of the program although existing users may have to pay a nominal upgrade fee of around £40.

Pushing 16 tracks through the system will take its toll and you may notice a very slight drop in quality, although for most users the trade-off will be more than acceptable.

To make the most of 16 tracks - or even the eight tracks Falcon Audio already has - check out the FA-8 (Falcon Analog 8), a hardware plug-in which provides eight individual outputs and costs £449.

For more information contact System Salutions an 081-693 3355



nal hard disk

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MPD1508 – Aliens (1 meg) – Strategy game based on these popular films.
MPD1738 – H-Mec 2 – Pacman clone for the STE.

MPD1862 - Utopos 1.5 - Demo version of this great shoot 'em up. (STE 1

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the Oval. MPD1778 - J.A.S.S.S. -An Olympic games simulation with humour - 8 sports

can be played. MPD0988 - Star Trek - 25th Anniversary disk magazine.

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in this good challenge.

Stosser – All issues available. Number 14 is the latest at time of going to

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of humour – not to be missed	£3.00
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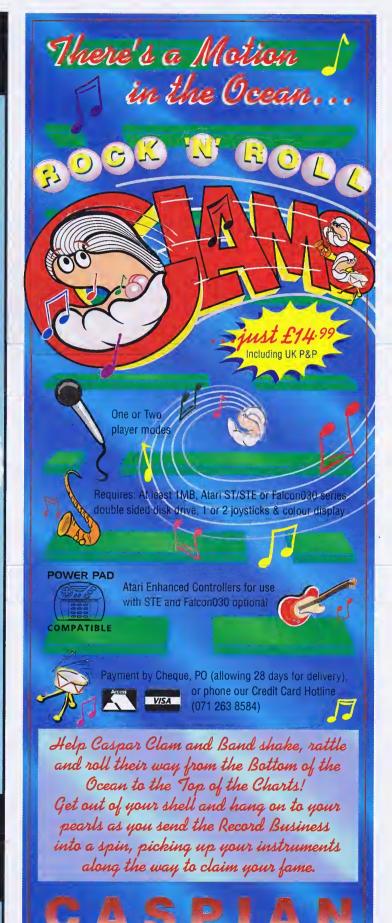
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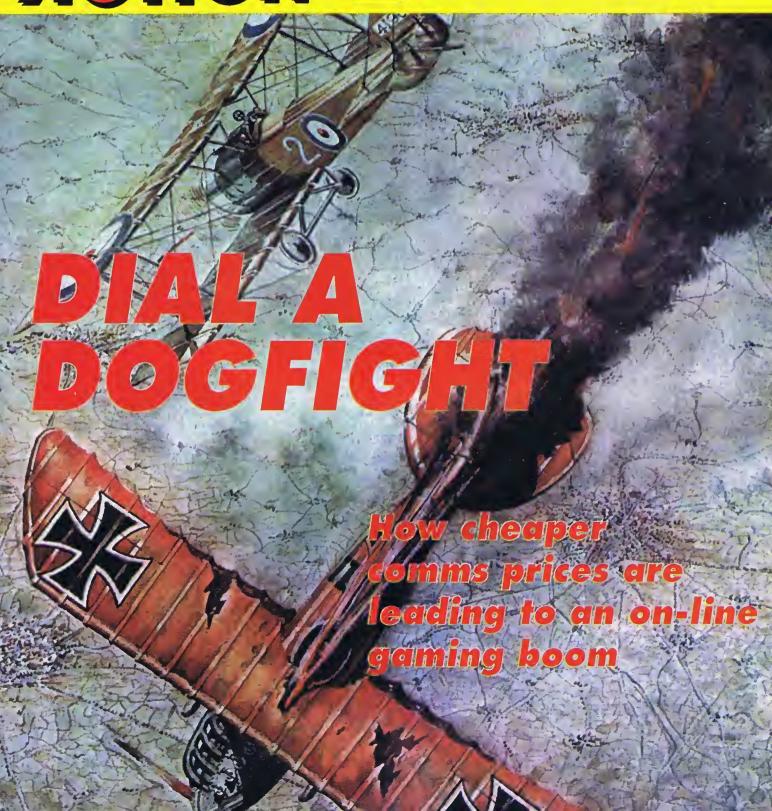
Rock 'n' Roll Clams @ Caspian Software Ltd 1994

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SIDE

- FOOTBALL GAMES ROUND-UP
- SLEEPWALKER
- JIMMY WHITE'S SNOOKER
- LURE OF THE TEMPTRESS
- CANNON FODDER TIPS
- ROCK 'N' ROLL CLAMS



FOOTB ALERT SERVICE SE

ootball. Love it or loothe it, there's no way of escaping it – especially with oll the current fuss over the World Cup.

Not even your ST can provide shelter as the game bombords its way into your home via this medium, but this does mean that you can see England through to World Cup glory this time round.

You con beat Italy 4-1 and see Germany smart as you thrash them 5-0, all through your favourite computer football game and a little joystick dexterity.

But it is understandably hard for your average games player to know which one to choose from the abundance of titles on the market, ranging from the management/strategy types to arcade/simulations

All manner of footboll titles continually hit our shelves os software companies compete for our cash, resulting in vastly differing standards from the good, to the bad to the very ugly.

A multitude of simulations have been released, stretching bock into the distant past and many contenders have fought to be the

definitive game. The major players, however, were brought to us by Sensible Software and Dini and Dini productions, namely Sensible Soccer and the Kick Off series (including Gool).

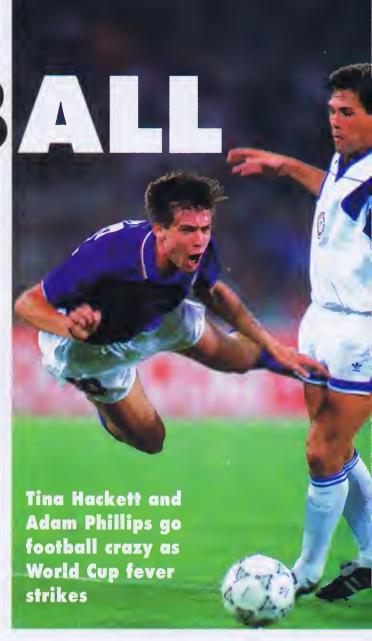
Other contenders in the fight were Krisalis' licensed releases, the Manchester United titles ond others, like Rages' Striker.

Not to be outdone by each other, software companies bombarded us with sequel after sequel, along with many updated versions and data disks.

The management genre also came under this borroge of releases with the likes of Gremlin's Premier Manager and Damark's Championship Manager.

This plague of footboll games has left us with a wealth of classic titles, all boasting great playability, highly addictive properties and fine grophics.

So not wonting to miss out on all the footy hype of the moment, STA investigate what's hot and what's not on the football scene. It's time to grab your Red Cords, whistle and boots and read on to see how you can do a better job than Terry Venables...



ST Action's most wanted... the football games we wouldn't want to be without

Kick Off/Kick Off 2/ Goal

Dino Dini shot to fame as the man behind the Kick Off series. The first offering set new standards in footboll gaming os we knew it. The second proceeded to better this and wowed many o gomes player with its sheer controllability.

Things went from good to very good for Dino Dini with a third Kick Off in the making, but with Dino parting company with Anco, publishers of the previous Kick Offs, the licence was taken up by Virgin and given the new maniker. Goall.

was taken up by Virgin and given the new moniker, Goal!.

A recent addition to the ST games scene, Goal! came complete with rumours that it was heavily bugged but Virgin recalled it and ironed out most of the hitches.

Bugs such as top-of-screen flickering and sprites' legs disappearing still remain but don't happen often enough to spoil what is otherwise a brilliant game. Graphics have

KICK SAME OFF

The original Kick Off changed the face of football games been improved in that larger sprites have been used to allow for some nice animation and game view can now be changed from a wide overhead view to a close, zoomed-in mode. A clever scanner feature allaws yau ta see all the nith at once

New to Goal! is the option to change the pitch from the conventional, vertical view to a left to right, horizontal one presenting the player with some unusual and challenging agmenta.

The options in Goal! make this on excellent title in that many aspects can be changed to suit your particular preference. From levels of difficulty to pitch type.

Although Goal! is at first not as easy to control os Sensible Soccer, after o little practice you can produce some very rewarding moves.

Being able to "trap" the ball and then kick it in the

Keep track of match statistics in Goal

required direction results in very accurate shats.

A great deal of thought has gone into making the game os realistic as possible. Players' speeds build up and slow-down gradually, as in the real thing.

A great, pacey football sim.

Sensible Soccer

Sensible Soccer came on the scene to challenge Kick Off 2. Dubious though the gamesploying public were at first, it became for many their number one football sim.

The appeal of Sensible Soccer lies in its many options and authentic football atmosphere. Somples of chants, gasps and boos, along with sirens and drums create that all-impartant match feel.

The game is viewed from a clever, slightly elevated pasi-



Make tactical decisions through this Sensible Soccer screen

Action FEATURE

Also available on an ST near you...

STAR RATING (scored 1 to 5)

- 1. Leeds Utd **
- 2. Jahn Barnes ***
- 3. Man Utd Europe ***
- 4. Graham Taylar's Soccer Challenge * (accampanied with plenty af jeering and booing who says we're bitter?)
- 5. Champianship Manager ★★★★
- 6. Premier Manager ★★★★

- Gazza's Super Saccer * (camedy plastic breasts nat included. A shame- it may have given some value ta this rubbish)
- 8. Striker **
- Football Manager 3 (na-one can actually remember this ane – must be good!)
- 10. Player Manager ***



Glory, Glory Man Utd and a darn good game to boot

World Cup - trivia

- 1. The first World Cup took place in Uruguay back in 1930.
- In 1966 when England played host, the World Cup trophy was stolen. The situation was rescued by a mongrel dog, no less, called Pickles. The dog sniffed out the cup from its hiding place!
- 3. The highest score in a World Cup match was New Zealand's 13-0 victory over Fiji during a qualifying round
- 4. Geoff Hurst is the only man to have scored a hat-trick in a World Cup final.
- A total of 60 players have received sendings off in World Cup finals – the South American nations having the worst record.

The management

If all this football arcade madness is already becoming too much there are alternotives. Management gomes ore becoming increasingly popular with those who prefer a game that requires a bit of thought ond strotegy with their football.

The Premier Monoger duo, and Championship Manager are among the most popular of this porticular genre. The idea behind them is to toke on the role of team monoger and lead your squad to success.

Things such as keeping your ground, squad, and money under control become port of your job. In short, you take on all the responsibilities of a manager.

Premier Manager 2

Premier Manager, released oround a yeor ogo, was met with much critical claim. A highly realistic monogement sim, it was thought that things couldn't get ony better

But the chaps at Gremlin not content to rest on their lourels ore striving for perfection once ogoin with Premier Manager 2. Starting your managerial role in the Vauxhall Conference you oim to lead your teom through to the Premier League and ultimotely win the European cup.

Premier League and ultimotely win the European cup.

However, this task is not easy, as you stort with the same resources as any other manager in the Vauxholl Conference, with the same amount of cosh and the same depth of squod.. You'll need to perform all the jobs of a manager-from ground improvements to arranging loans ta the oll important match day tactics.

If you can't wait for this highly engrossing management sim, keep your eyes pealed for a demo appearing soan on our CoverDisk.

tion, so there is no need for a radar or scanner.

The Sensible Saftware team are a wacky bunch indeed and have a tendency to use small sprites in their games (Megalamania, Cannan Fadder) and Sensible Soccer is no exception.

But despite the small dimensions, they still pack same great animation and allow far superior gameplay and controllability.

Game pace is another secret to this title's success. Neither too fast nar too slaw, the game allows you to plan and take shots, giving a greater feeling of cantral.

The many aptions include navel ideas such as seasonal weather, match length and fully changeable data ta customise teams.

A brilliant game, made even better by the billians af aptians and the remarkable cantral of the little sprites.



Pitch type can be changed in Sensible Soccer



Stockport County fantasy football

Who better to give their football insights on some of the better footy titles gracing our screens than the lads who play the game for a living?

Stockport County Football Club can boast several trips to Wembley and the tallest player in the football league – a healthy 6ft 7 in. With this in mind, the ST Action team

made their way with heads held high labout six foot) to the ground for the ensuing fournament.

Before plunging into this dash of the titans and to give the players a warm up, we presented them with titles from the current crop of football games to flex the hand muscles with.

Goal!

The latest offering from Dino Dini only managed to stir an "It's all right" from Lee Todd, Stockport's right back.

The players warmed to it after a while though, as Darren Ryan, right/left wing, claimed that he preferred Goal! to everyone's favourite, Sensible Soccer.

Sensible Soccer

Most players found this classic their favourite, a fun, action packed and easy-to-get-into footy experience and without further ado, this title was select-ed to be used in the final tournament...

The tournament After this brief reviewing session, the tournament began in earnest. Lee Todd and Darren Ryan stepped forward to take on the STA team in a vicious game of Sensible Soccer. Match tension was high as, fingers flexed and focus at maximum, Stockport prepared themselves for the first semi-final.

The STA team in the meantime put on a brave face while fumbling with the Beta Blockers in a vain attempt to hold themselves together for the first match.



Tina, STA writer and Lee, footballer extroardinaire, meet head to head in the semi-final

LeeTodd...

winner and

lucky holder

of the STA

pystick

Lee Todd, SCFC Tina Hackett, STA

Lee made his intentians clear fram the beginning - after a clase call at Hackett's goal right fram the aff, he had the

lase call at Hackers good right from the air, he had me ball far the majarity of the game. In the meantime, Hacker, resumed in fauling at every given apportunity. Desaits this Took sed the ball in the back of the net by the end of the first half with a sharp crassaver from the left that left Hackett blushing in shame. The second half held few surprises – although STA

managed to take a few pot shats an goal, Stockport drave the ball into the net ance again, producing an unequivocal result: 2-0. Todd was into the final.

> Lee Todd, SCFC VS. Darren Ryan, SCFC

After proclaiming that he'd be happy with a draw, Ryan's dream was shattered by Todd as he carved his players round the keld, putting the ball into the back of

the net by the end of the first half

Ryan faught back in a desperate attempt to noil his fellow player to the wall.

Yellaw and red cards were in abundance and Ryan had his mament of glary with a resounding goal scared from a carner.

But all this hard work was ta na avail - Todd pushed another ane into the net and the taurnament was aver. 2-1 to Lee Tadd, the winner... it was time for a handshake and the phatocall.



Darren Ryan, SCFC VS. Adam Phillips, STA

A game of unrealised promise. A barrage of attacks at the goal from STA's finest were constantly unsuccessful. Ryan's attempts were feracious but by half time, there were no goals, just frustration.

Into the second that the unack continued with the added element of Ryan talking th beginned trying to throw his poponent off guard. "What a save!", "Ahh, you're wasting time!" and assorted expletives.

This all praved too much far the young man from the Europress offices as the ball squeezed past his gaalie in the last secand of play.

1.0 and Stockpart were into the final, the STA team merely commentating.



Lee Todd gives his approval to Sensible Soccer



ction FEATUR

Looking to the future

With the two classics, Goal! and Sensible Soccer in your collection, do you really need any more footy sims? Well, if neither of these takes your fancy or you're just plain greedy, read on to see what the future has in store

Sensible World Of Soccer

Renegade and Sensible Software are looking to release the Sensible World Of Soccer on the ST sometime later this year and the game also looks set to make an appearance on the Jaguar.

This title promises to be different in that it will combine all aspects of a good management game as well as retaining its original playability. As team manager, the player can choose from 1,500 world club sides, from any one of the world's main leagues. Try your hand at either manager, player or a combination of

Thus the game should appeal to both management/strategy buffs and arcade players.

Kick Off 3 on the ST?

Decisions are also being taken as to whether Kick Off 3 will appear on the ST

Steve Screech, one of the original programmers of Kick Off 2 is overseeing development and from the look of things on other versions, it could be rather impressive.



Kick Off uses nicely animated sprites

The next generation

With all the leaps in graphics and sound appearing acrass the gaming genres, the question on most footy fans' lips is - what's the next generation of Sensible Soccers going to look like? The Sega Saturn, to be released at the end of this year, could give

a solid hint to the direction that the genre is moving in.

Saturn Soccer is from the makers of the much touted Virtua series (Racing, Fighters) and from the early preview shots that we glimpsed at the recent CES show, it loaks like the Warld Cup af football games.

Featuring multiple imaginative views of the action and full palygon graphics, this is shaping up to be quite a title on the visuals side.

Whether it can match the playability of the likes af Sensible Soccer

is another question altogether.

Likewise FIFA Soccer on the 3DO features panning, zooming and digitised players, producing breathtaking results.

But as Steve Dunn, the programmer af Sierra Soccer, says: "The playability [of the next generation] could be fractionally better but not

Tim James of Krisolis is adamant about putting playability before

graphical enhancements. He sees the next step heading towards more individuality for the players' techniques – how well they run, kick and handle. He hopes that bringing more managerial skills to the game will produce a more raunded and varied

If you ball out a player, you'll be able to see the results the next match – he may well be better an pitch and mave faster ar, alterna-

tively, sulk and not play to the best of his abilities.

Virtual reality is regarded by some as the ultimate way forward, a very viable option for the future.

Cauld it be passible that, a few years dawn the line, we'll be able to slip a VR head unit on and take part in the ultimate football experience as we run round Wembley stadium with the roar af fans echaing in aur ears?

The ane important factor that has been present in many of the classics of the computer football yesteryears, is sheer playability.

It must be one of the most cansistently addictive genres, providing

the player with hours of fun and frustration.



Diermot has a burning desire to get out of here

icture the scene. Yau want ta mave hause, and far reasans that I'm nat at liberty ta divulge, yau apt far a nice little shack, slap bang in the middle af an enchanted kingdam. Enchanted kingdom, I hear you thinking ta yaurselves, what a strange, yet addly appealing idea. And so, gullible fools that yau are, yau flog yaur current obode ond trundle off to this enchanted land. And here the prablems start. But it's too late ta turn back naw. I've gat yau and yaur little dogs too.

Prablem number ane: Yau can't pranaunce, ar even spell, the name of this enchanted land. Odds are it's gat at least three cansanants to every vowel in its name, and requires five litres of phlegm to say the first twa syllables. The post is gaing to be very slow, I'm afraid. Prablem number twa: Enchanted kingdams are natariausly backward. Mast af them think that a spoon is an extravagant piece af technology. Expect dirt tracks, disturbing aramas and lats of things made af wood. Much like Scarbaraugh.

Prablem number three: Enchanted lands always, and I mean always, get canquered by an all-pawerful evil farce. Trust me an this ane. Do narmal realms such as Earth ever get canquered? Nat that I'm aware af, matey. Na sarcerers dawn my street. Na demanic invasians an the telly news. And why? Because we've gat big guns, scary music and na time far peaple wha pance abaut in claaks and tolk cobblers. That's why.

Lands of the enchanted persuasian, hawever, are full of unicarns, cute things and a baffling array of wood-derived products. And that's why they get their teeth kicked in. In

> Nice to find some Guinness down here



Serf
Sorry, my Lord.
Perhaps you could cut
out my

Just be careful what you do with the knife!



LURE OF

It's big! It's brassy! And by jiminy, it's back! A "proper" adventure game from the vaults, at a price you can easily afford

camputer games at least. So it's na surprise ta find that the village af Turnvale has been taken aver by a beastly sarceress called Selena wha, I have reasan ta believe, is both a temptress and, er, a bit of a lure.

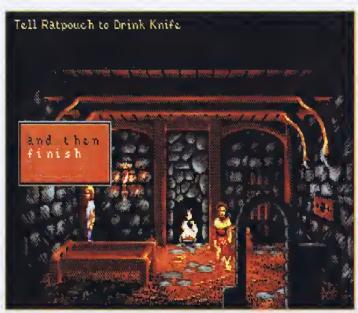
What is surprising is that you start the game locked in a prisan cell with na visible means of escape. Na pottering around twee leafy lanes here, just cald, hard stane and a bit of tatty straw. So any safties aut there had better ride aut of town because this is adventuring far people who are as hard as proverbial nails.

Yau take the part of Diermat, a flimsy excuse far a hera wha was captured when the King tried ta take Turnvale back fram Selena and gat his rayal head caved in. Using an intuitive and easy-to-get-the-hang-of point and click system, it's naw up ta yau ta sart aut this sa-called Selena. So what's it all about then? Lure of the Temptress stands

aut because af its rather fruity Virtual Theatre system. This means that every character in the game aperates independently and will da whatever they feel like daing, regardless af your ottempts to free them from slavery.

While this is bath rude and unhelpful, it gives the game a very "real" air. Yau get the teeling that yau're interacting with characters rather than just sprites an a screen. There is a dawnside to all this, and that's the fact that it can make it hard to find certain characters, because they're very likely to taddle aut far a strall ar a pint just when yau need to find them. But that's a minar niggle really as the Virtual Theatre cancept warks very well, especially when yau can peek thraugh windaws to spy an peaple and watch them ga about their business.

There's alsa a nice amount of humaur in the game, mastly fram Ratpauch, your weasely sidekick wha you pick up alang the way.



Diermot requests Ratpouch's party piece

BUDGET ACTION

THE TEMPTRESS

LotT is full of spooky gateways like this, but how can you bluff your way through?



His attempts to get served in a pub roise a smile ar three, as does his insistence an calling the manks "Madam" because they wear dresses. Cambined with the atmospheric mood created by that Virtual Theatre thingy, this makes for an appealing and canvincing game. Sa all's well and gaad there then.

The graphics are well drawn, and each character is instantly recognisable, which is just as well as there are plenty af people to choose fram in the game. Each location canceals billians af abjects to be examined, and there are tiny clues and hints all over the place so keep your eyes peeled. I

t's just a pity that there's preciaus little saund. A clanking naise fram the blacksmiths is about all I remember hearing, so dig aut a BBC Medieval saund effects album and stick that an. As I said, this isn't really a good game to buy if you've never played an adventure befare, as it requires quite a lat of brain strain right from the start, and assuming you manage to escape from the prisan there'll be a lat of aimless wondering befare you latch on to the task at hand.

There are just sa many characters and passible caurses af actian ta digest that unless yau can keep yaur head obout yau yau're likely to flounder.

But if you can handle all the peaple milling about and all the clues and informatian then this will keep you happy for a hefty chunk af the foreseeable future.

Once you are an the right track, the clues will lead you fram ane puzzle to another, so if you do end up wandering about blindly



Even world-saving adventurers need to get the groceries

then yau knaw yau've missed samething. Sudden death is also kept to a minimum, unless you insult the wrang people, which, af caurse, aur nice polite readers wauld never da.

All in all then, a spankingly gaad rerelease that deserves shelf space in any adventurer's hame. It's a borgoin in every possible sense af the ward.

DANIEL WHITEHEAD

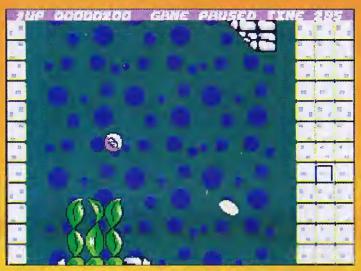


Is there a use for this mysterious goat? Diermot's about to find out



Among the monsters and corruption, lies this rustic little abode, the owner of which will be very helpful





The motion in the Ocean provides problems for Caspar



Don't be crabby if things get difficult

he clam comes second only to the fly in the 'campletely useless creatures' stokes. They serve little or no purpose, sot there at the battom of the ocean. Not particularly cute ar endearing, with no facial features ar limbs even, they just sit meaninglessly on the sea bed, of na use ta anyane.

That was until an independent saftware house from Landon decided to make them the subject far their new Atari-specific game. So it's extra Brownie points to Caspian Software far 1) making an excellent puzzler aut af a tatally naff creature and 2) making a game that is compatible with all Atori machines and takes into account the capabilities of your cam-

puter. As if all this wosn't enough, Rock 'N' Roll clams features Blitter-enhanced graphics, DMA sound, Power Pad compatibility and can alsa be installed onto your hard drive. These days, as developers start abandoning the Atari, it is a very positive sign indeed far ST awners that there are campanies like this praducing tap natch software specifically for the Atari.

And sa anta the game... The storyline, though verging an the completely rubbish side (mind yau, how many good stories are there obout clams?) results in some very unusual and refreshing gameplay. The stary gaes that Caspian the Clam, bared with listening ta Classical Music on a school trip, and hearing groovy music fram the share, decides he and his friends shauld investigate.

The naughty truonts set off to find the saurce of this funky beat when suddenly Mackerel Mac, aut an a day's fishing, catches them in his nets (there's a maral in the stary there, kids!). Mac plans to sell the Clams ta Clams 'U' Like and carries them aff in a poper bag.

Luckily for Caspar, a small hole appears in the bag and he makes his escape. This is where the game begins and it's naw up to you ta guide Caspar around the levels in search of his friends before they are turned into chawder and to find that Rock 'n' Roll beat.

Before yau clam up completely at the atra-ciaus storyline and write the game aff camplete-ly, don't be misled. Despite the kind af

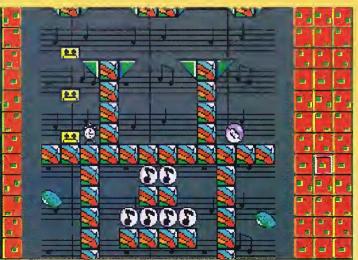
gome bockground that sounds mare at hame an Playschool, the actual game is a very taxing, brain-bashing effart, that requires a great deal of skill and dexterity with the jaystick

Gameplay takes an unusual line - it's a crass between a gravity game and a pinballer. 100 huge levels are available far one or twa players, a massive 3,200 screens in tatal

All the levels are easily accessible through the useful 'Skip Level' feature - so you don't get frustrated just being stuck an one level and nat being able ta get anywhere - just go on to another level and try it again later! The pass-



Sand everywhere as Caspar makes his way through the Sandy Shore level

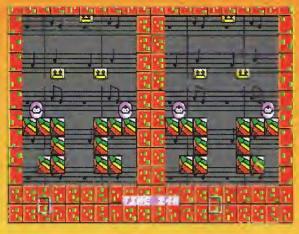


As the theme of the game is music, what else would you expect but natty notes?

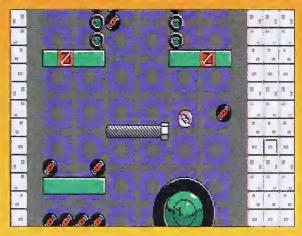


Novel graphics provide a refreshing change

Action FEATURE



Two-player mode provides frantic fun



Caspar has to search through all manner of locations for his friends

oll Clams

which will toke eons to complete, especially considering the millions of levels plus hidden screens available. The two-player mode is a great laugh and the gameplay a brilliant novelty. High quality software just for Atari users – what more could you want?

Fish jokes abound as Tuna Haddock scuba dives with the musical clams

word system also allows you to access specific levels within the Warlds. Collect gold and silver tapes to cash them in for posswords.

Start Blocks are another excellent feature, meaning you don't get the frustration of starting from the beginning of the level each time.

ing from the beginning of the level each time.

Caspor is also helped out by the hats he can find. These enable him to carry out special moves. These include Propeller Hots giving him the ability to fly; Gun Hats – they speak for themselves really and enable you to shoot your way out of trouble; Crash Hats, to bash your way through the game; and Viking Hats to spike your way out of things!

To play the game you need to guide

Caspar through a vertically scrolling screen before your time limit runs out, avoiding nasties, finding yaur way through objects and collecting bonuses. Gravity makes up a large element of gameplay as you attempt to spin and roll Caspar in all directions against the force of gravity. This makes for a very tricky task and joystick dexterity is the key to success.

GUIDING

To cantrol Caspar, press your joystick (or joypad) left or right to spin or roll him in these directions. The longer you press, the faster Caspar will spin. Accurately guiding him off objects and away from baddies becomes an integral part of the game. The way he bounces off objects will depend on the object itself, the speed you are spinning and how you hove hit it. Caspar can also remove the effects of gravity to travel up a level, as it becomes necessary to do, by pressing up.

On early attempts you may became sa frustrated that the temptatian just ta give up becomes unbearable. But perseverance soon

pays aff and after a little practice it becomes a very rewarding game.

With all this going on, it's easy to forget about the excellent two-player made. You and another player can race against each other to be the first to form your band. As well as having the same objectives as the one-player game you also get to bash your opponent to bits! Find a heavy weight and drop it on them – the only defence to this is to collect a protective umbrella or move quickly out of the way.

Top all this great gameplay off with bright, appealing graphics, smooth scrolling and plenty of attention to detail. Don't forget to add the amusing sound effects and jaunty music and you are left with ane brilliant title. The cantrols take some getting used to though (incidentally the joypod control works with the game nicely) but practice makes perfect.

And don't think that just because the story contains a cute clam that life is going to be easy – far from it in fact. Rock 'N' Roll Clams is a hard but very enjoyable game

VISION

AUDIO

**DIFFICULTY

LASTABILITY

This highly entertoining puzzler will hidd a great deal of longevity. A reosonable first game trom this new softwore house.

80%

Publisher ➤ Caspian Software
Developer ➤ Caspian Saftware

Disks ➤ 2 Price ➤ £14.99

HD Install ➤ Yes Size ➤ 1 meg

The many levels and different backdrops add variety



Vertically scrolling backdrops work well

Modem gaming is growing in popularity as communication equipment continues to fall in price, and companies like On-Line Entertainment develop state of the art multi-user software. Simon Clays investigates

competied

he computer user, the computer gomer, coll him what you like, but he's olwoys regorded os a solitary figure. These sullen creatures of the night can often be seen in the monitor-lit shodows of bedrooms all over the globe in pixelled isolotion.

But is this lonesome reputation that the gamer has inherited justified? In truth it is not, because all over bedrooms in the UK, soles managers and shop ossistants alike are coming home from the office to dial into an electronic goming community.

This online phenomenon has been popular in the United States for quite a few years now, and hos built up a huge user base.

EQUIPEMENT

Implementation is simple enough. All o user needs to go live is a computer and a modem that can send and receive information down a telephone line.

As a user, oll you have to pay for is the telephone bill and maybe a subscription fee to the BBS (Bulletin Boord System) operators. Several years ago, the idea was imported into Britain by On-Line Entertainment, and it has since attracted thousands of users.

The broins behind On-Line Entertainment are Michael Hodges and Clem Chambers. Having spent time in the US, they were both convinced that modem gaming had vast potential for Europe. Michael Hodges reflects:

"We'd been dealing with some American networks for some time and saw how they'd been exponding. Meanwhile in Europe there was no gome comms activity. So we started to create a market over here, and it's been slowly growing ever since."

The gaming environment created by On-Line Entertainment is the result of the lotest in softwore and hordwore technology. The games are specially written to run on communication equipment which allows more than one user to log in and select the game they wish to ploy.

The equipment needed to achieve this level of sophisticated gameplay consists of a network of Unix multi-processor systems which

users log on to. The equipment ond services are offered by On-Line 24 hours a day, but the majority of people tend to phone during cheap rate hours to keep their bill down.

Michoel is quick to defend the costs



Air Warrior allows players to customise their cockpits. Here we see a customised Spitfire



The main menu allows you to choose from a wide range of planes



A typical training mission in an American P-47

ction FEATUR

Flying tonight?

Air Warriar allows users to jain one of three nationalities who are constantly at war with ane another. The countries have a variety of primary and secondary airbases datted around the war zane, and also have use of aircraft carriers to toke off from.

The warring countries awn various surplus aircraft which means the user has a wide chaice of American, British, German or even Soviet planes to fly.

Once you've logged an to the Air Warrior menu, you can access instructions and help. Help comes in twa shapes: a training area where users can carry aut a little torget practice, and weekly training sessians run by expert pilats.

Once your wings are a farmality, you'll prabably stort hanging around the conference rooms. Here, players fram all nationalities can tolk to each other ar see who is flying.

It's in these rooms that teams are farmed and toctics farmulated. Far example, a team wanting to fly a B-17 bamber have to assign crew to various gunning and bombing positians. Besides the general canference rooms, each country has a room at its headquarters, where mare sensitive tactics can be discussed.

Alsa, each major airfield has a briefing room in which pilats ready far toke-off can chat. Ta add further realism, there's even a radia facility enabling users to communicate with ather players an the ground or in the air. The radia cames equipped with 999 different channels and a squelch facility to block aut unwanted ears.

But this is just the beginning, because the warld of Air Warriar is truly massive with a number af different locations and cambat terrains to fight in. European and Pacific environments come camplete with rivers, bridges and graund installations such as radar towers and ack-ack guns.

There are also a number of strategic installations such as refineries, cities and supply canvays to attack. Destraying these torgets affects the apposition's war effort, and they suf-

fer incanveniences with things such as amma supply.

Air Warriar is a truly massive and sophisticated simulatian which is full af detail and realism. Options such as controlling ground or air-based machinery give it a long and entertaining shelf life.

But by far the mast addictive aspect of Air Warriar gaming is the totally unpredictable nature of your apponents. Being 100 per cent arganic, they pravide gameplay that will

never ever became tediaus ar repetitive.

Air Warriar creator Michael Hodges sums this dimensian af play up to a tee: "Each time you play it's different, different people to play against in different situations and in different moods. If sameane's had a bad day at wark then you know it."

"There's no such thing as a predictable computer apponent, just real people that want to

thaugh: "Peaple think the phane is mare expensive than it really is. A local coll anly casts about 86p an haur, which is a lat less than a pint of beer."

Many readers will be familiar with and have taken full advontoge of multi-player link-ups like Falcan and Stunt Car Racer. But in camparisan with the titles On-Line can generate, they pale into insignificance.

Michael is also acutely aware of the other merits of modem gaming: "To use a camputer can be a lanely thing. Also, computer appanents in traditional computer games can be very predictable and boring.

"The anly way ta change this was ta get ather peaple ta jain in. This is where we came in. We want people ta change the way they look at their camputer - there's a warld aut there where people can play, talk and be friends."



Michael Hodges, co-founder on On-Line Entertainment

FLYING

The most papular example af On-Line's games is their flight simulatar Air Warriar. This allaws more than 40 people to pilot planes and jets from vorious eras in aviatian history

Other titles include Federation 2, an adult fantasy role-playing game where players interact in a simulated galaxy; Multi-User Dungean (MUD 2), the ariginal multi-user D&D game fram the early '80s updated; and Internecine, a huge text-based adventure.

Wark is in progress at On-Line on more odvanced multi-user titles like Bottletech, where players team up in huge draids travelling around a play area attempting to blaw each ather up.

Although modem technology hasn't really expladed yet in the manner it has in the States, the next five years cauld see a massive swing as technology and modem casts fall in Britain. This is a fact that On-Line knowingly acknowledge.

"We are in the process of expanding our service in terms of product and availability," says Michael. "Recently we switched an a new game called Land of the Crawn, and now we affer a full Internet service giving our users access ta a wealth of informatian and software.

"We are expanding our service into

Eurape with direct links to other countries. We alsa have a new link going into Finland, so we'll soon see squadrans and adventurers fram Finland playing.

Clem and Michael have alsa been quick ta seize ather appartunities that CD technalogy has made possible, and are canfident that they can cantribute ta a multi-playing future

"All af aur products are available an CD-ROM. This medium is about to take aff in a major way and when recent developments such os MPEG became generally available we will be able ta ga beyand the boundaries af TV ar film."

"At that point we wan't be restricted to camputer graphics and saunds, but we will deal with real images and saunds maybe even create the mysticol interactive TV that people have been talking about far years."

> Far further detoils cantoct: Michael Hodges On-Line Entertainment 642a Lea Bridge Road London E10 6AP Tel: 081 558 6114 Hast: 081 539 6763



One of the On-Line computers that handle dog-fighting callers from across Europe



Press the correct key and you can take a glance out of your side window



Players communicate via the keyboard and one of the 999 radio channels



The sewers are deadly, with water everywhere. If one drop touches Lee then he will wake up instantly and you'll lose a life

ag is, opporently, man's best friend. I know mony conines that fetch slippers and catch sticks, but

I don't know many that guard

you from donger when you're sleepwolking. But that didn't stop Ocean using this idea for

a platfarmer and the Monchester-based

company have now re-released it on their Hit Squad budget label.

Ocean ore renowned for releasing gomes that cantoin great graphics ond superb sonics, but ore desperotely locking in the playobility departments. Naw ond agoin, they do

produce on obsolute stormer of a game that

Sleepwolker was originally created for

Comic Relief and at the time of its release

the whole world seemed to be gaing

"gome" crazy. With the eyes of just about

every mon, womon ond child on them, Ocean hod to praduce o gaad gome becouse with all the publicity flying about,

In Sleepwolker, you control Ralph the

Rolph hos been give some super-conine

dog and guide around the various levels

moking sure that his moster, Lee, doesn't

failure could do the company real horm.

is good in every department.

came ta ony horm.

powers enobling him to be squoshed, zapped, boshed, run over ond even roasted without doing himself ony permonent injuries. Lee is, unfortunotely, not blessed with the same pawers ond will wake up (remember that it's very dangeraus to wake o sleepwolker) if he bumps into ony hoz-

The abject of the game is to guide Lee sofely through the six voried ond hazord-packed levels moking sure you get Ralph's moster out of the exit without woking him up. The levels ronge from the traffic-strewn city streets to a creepy groveyord to the local zoo and all hove their own kind of dongers hidden within.

WAKING UP

The sleep bar at the tap of the screen shows how deep Lee's sleep is. He begins the odventure in deep sleep when the bor is to the far right. It moves gradually to the left as Lee walks into hozords. The amount it will move depends on whot kind of hazord tee encounters. When it moves oll the way to the left, Lee will stretch, have o yown ond woke up.

Water has the greatest effect and moy



One quick doggy paddle and Ralph finds one of the bonus icons. Find another four and you'll be whisked off to the bonus stage

Sleep

woke Lee up completely. When Lee awokens, you lose a life and must restort the level ogain from a point near to where he awoke. Do this three times and it'll be gome over.

Scottered around the levels ore various icons that give Lee or Rolph special obilities. The whoopee cushion makes whoever picks it up invulnerable for a short period of time, while a pair of novelty ear muffs will put Lee into a deeper sleep.

Also ploced strotegically around each of the levels are five banus balloons. As you collect the balloons, the word "Bonus" is spelled out an the right-hand side of the scare panel. The word used to be "Comic" in conjunction with the chority camedy event, but Ocean seem to have dropped this fram the budget release. The letters don't have to be collected in ony order, but once you've found all five you can enter Ralph into the bonus level.

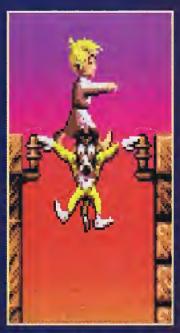
Rolph may be mon's best friend, but it seems that he's not too fond of his moster's sleepwolking capabilities and wishes him o nice painful death! The banus levels toke

Ralph has a minor disagreement with the club bouncer which inevitably leads to violence



A shot from the marvellous animated introduction sequence which tells the story of Ralph and Lee





Ralph can be used in various ways. Here he makes quite a useful bridge for his master to walk over

Appropriate the start of the adventure and already Ralph is running

The start of the adventure and already Ralph is running ahead of his master to check for any dangers

BUDGET ACTION



Ding ding! Going down! Ralph takes Lee for a ride on a lift making sure his master doesn't wake up

Walker

The game that did a lot of work for charidee –
but didn't like to talk about it – is back!
Courtesy of Ocean's Hit Squad label, join Ralph
the dog for a manic bout of budget platform fun



Pushing your master into the road when a car is coming is probably not the best idea in the world. Where's the Green Cross Code man when you need him?

place in a similar landscape to the main levels. Rolph must run around and collect red balloons. Every 20 red balloons collected generates on extra life for the fearless mutt.

There ore extro icons feotured in the bonus level that, when collected in the correct order, spell out one of the hozards that Rolph would like to see hoppen to Lee. For instance if you collect the lomp, plus, pastbox, minus and box icons you get a visual sum. The answer of course is lomp post and then a fate involving that object would befall Ralph's master. When the time an the bonus level runs out, if Rolph has man-



One of the many fates that can happen to Ralph is being burnt to death, though in true cartoon style no permanent damage is done

oged to collect ony special bonus hazords you get ta watch whot might hoppen to

Sleepwolker is on incredibly simple game that will take you a long time to moster. Control of Rolph the dag is, at first, very hard and you will need a lat of practice, but once you've mostered that, Sleepwolker turns into a such a dreamy game that you will want to run off and live with it in platfarm heaven for the rest of your days... erm probably.

The grophics ore really bright and colourful and some af the animation, including the introduction sequence, is

superb. Not o lot to sing ond dance about on the sound front, opart from the introductian which feotures the vocol tolents of Lenny Henry, but whot is in the gome is more than adequate.

Ocean gomes tend to be top-heavy in the visual and audio departments and tend to neglect ployobility. But do not fret because Sleepwolker is jam-packed full af the stuff. It is a gome that takes o while to get inta, but once you're there it is very hard to put your joystick down and turn off your computer.

I rate Sleepwolker becouse it's on original concept and you don't get too many of those these days. Toking its brand new budget price into occount, there isn't ony reason why you should not have Sleepwalker in your games callection because it is one of the best platfarmers you can get for your mochine.

JONATHAN MADDOCK

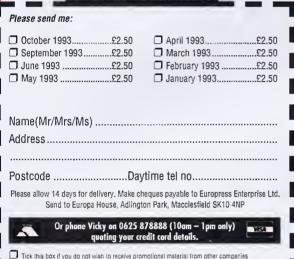




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Designed & Published Using ATARI ST Computers

Many Exclusive Offers!

nooker, as a rule, is perhaps one af the mast boring sports to watch in the whale warld. Dan't get me wrong, I like snooker, but watching two players pot balls into pockets into the early hours of the morning is just not my idea of a fun time.

Actually playing snooker is a whale different kettle af fish though, but you must have a opponent to compete against and this is where a slight problem occurs. Most people will quite happily challenge you to gome at pool because it's a much quicker game and thus a mare enjayable experience. Challenging someone to play snooker is a bit like saying "Hey! Fancy coming to watch some point dry?".

This problem can now be solved thanks to the wander that is, Jimmy White's Whirlwind Snooker. Well, ta tell you the truth the problem was first solved when Jimmy White's emerged in 1991, but for ST newcomers and thase wha missed it first time around it has re-appeared in Remember I soid that finding someone to play snooker against is a bit af a problem, well in Whirtwind Snooker there are a whale abundance af camputer players ta break aff against including the maestra af the green baize himself, Jimmy White.

Far thase with lots af snooker-laving chums

Far thase with lots af snooker-laving chums there is, thankfully, a twa player aptian, but perhaps one of the most fun aspects of Jimmy White's is the trick shat feature. You can set up all the balls exactly how you want them and then adopt a Jahn Virgo-like beard and happily amaze your friends with your cueing expertise.

Jimmy White's Whirtwind Snooker is one af thase games that should be in everyane's collection af software simply because it is the ultimate snooker experience. There will never ever be another snooker game because there is no possible way that it will be better than Whirtwind Snooker.

The graphics are brilliant and are highly

BUDGET ACTION

realistic. There are some nice tauches when you leave the gome to its own devices. Flies start to appear an the screen and the balls start to pull faces at you and wave flags in the air! For those gamers wondering about that last sentence, I am campletely sober.

Those people who don't like snooker obvi-

Thase people wha don't like snooker obviously won't be too keen on the idea of playing it too aften, but I heartily recommend Jimmy White's to every ST owner on the planet. Buy it now, if not sooner.

JONATHAN MADDOCK



Chalk that cue tip and prepare to break off into 3D snooker heaven!

Jimmy White's acres Whirlwind Snooker

budget farm caurtesy af Ocean's Hit Squad

Jimmy White's Whirtwind Snooker is perhaps the fastest, smoothest snooker game ever created and it's just about as clase ta "real" snaaker as you can get. The reason far the realism is the superb 3D ball routines expertly pragrammed by Archer Maclean. You really have to play Jimmy White's to find out just how good the balls are because words will nat and never will do it praper justice.

Cantrol of the game is via the mause and a series of icans which can be placed at either the side ar top of the screen. Clicking on the icans will allow you to positian your cue, select spin, set the power level and even chalk your tip.

The ather icans give you occess to a whole range of views from which you can watch the hat potting action. You can view the table from any angle and zoam in an any ball.

ONE PLAYER GAME

UNDO FEATURE NOT ALLOWED

ENTER MAME 1
PLAY AGAINST TOM 1 EASY
DICK 2 GOOD
HARRY 3 HARDER
DIHMY 4 CHAMPION
CAMCELL

Jimmy White might not have ever won the World Snooker Championship, but he's the fans' favourite and just to prove it he stars in this, his very own ST game

There are a whole bunch of computer players to compete against



it's a comedy moment! Leave the ball to its own devices and it will start to pull faces at you



The table can be viewed from any angle. This is achieved by clicking on the set of icons found at the side of the screen



Welcome warmongers to the third installment of our excellent guide to killing and maiming computer pixels in Virgin's top blast-'em-up



Reports from local residents indicate that the enemy have set up vorious barracks olong the riverside of mount Jukonio. Through this they have been oble to cut off oll supplies to neighbouring villages and have also offected our bock-up

troops.
Unless this river is freed from enemy presence, our troops will either storve or be killed by averwhelming enemy farces

The helicopter will fly you in during the morning. Instead of beginning of the tap of the mauntain where it is inaccessible due to the lorge presence of enemy soldiers, you will stort from the foot.

Yau will proceed fram this location to point one where on enemy foxhole is situoted. All enemy ormy personnel must be erodicated from this area.

At point two you will find a strong resistance from two borrocks. Reports indicate that there is a bazooka guord of the northern most hut and he should be eliminated first befare the buildings.

Area three halds another bazooka guard but he's only there during the doy, so make the most of it. Before swimming the river to oscend further up the mountain, be sure to destroy the other bazooko installation at point four. Foilure to do so will probably result in your death.

Acrass the river is another enemy building full of soldiers. Minimise the danger foctor by throwing a grenode of the building from the other side of the river. Then when the coost is clear, go

The hut of point six should be tockled fram the foot of the precipice, because ot paint seven there's o rocket installa-tian. Try ta take aut the rocket launcher from the south side of the river before oscending the lost part of the mountoin.

At the top of the lost mountoin you'll find the heoviest resistonce, os the enemy up here have witnessed your events and ore on full olert.

In the tap north-east corner there's o box of grenodes if you need them. If you ore successful in eliminating all buildings and enemy soldiers and the phose hasn't ended, then there's mare than likely to be a large squad of men to the south near the foxhole, so retreat back to soid location to deal with them. Then rodio in ond we'll come in ond pick you up.



Jungle warfare is the next mission in our com-paign men. Hidden around the jungle in South America are lats af army operatives that need to be wiped out.

The enemy have learnt from their past mistakes and are naw taking more caution than ever befare. They have set mare booby traps and increased the capacity of the barracks. Yaur averall mission is to find 'em and drill 'em. Details are as follows.

The chopper will fly you in clase to the nest. Move with stealth through the jungle avoiding point one. Inside this bush is a single saldier who will attempt to shoot you with a bazooka shell. Fortunately for us, he doesn't quite know how to use such hardware and will without a doubt kill himself in the process, but be sure not ta leave any of your men nearby as the explo-sion can kill you, as you well knaw. Area two will contain a group of three crack

soldiers who will keep watch until they have spotted any enemy forces - namely you. Twa of them will then rush farward and aftempt to





thwort your plans while the the third raises the

So move quickly and kill them and attack the guard at point three before destroying the huts beyond location five.

Take core neor point four os the bridges have been tompered with ond hove o multitude of hidden mines and spiked traps. If this area has been successfully completed, you can move up to point six to wipe out the remains of the enemy forces in this area.

Area seven contains a lorge omount of mis-

Area seven contains o lorge omount of missiles to use ogoinst the enemy. It's tempting to collect these before completing the other objectives but if you do, you'll raise the olorm too early ond enemy forces will be overwhelming for your much smaller group.

Although this phase oppeors eosy, We con tell you now that you have never had it so hard. Report to H.Q. when this mission phase is completed.

BUNKE

OK men, you're already fomiliar with the controls behind the enemy's skidu, so get ready to employ those skills once more as you need it to complete the mission.

The mission is as follows: during the last phase, the enemy caught a civilian listening in to the captoins' meeting. It is believed that this civilian can provide all the information about the enemy's next strike against our forces. It is important to a lot of men's lives that we leam of this plan.

Your task is to breach the enemy defences and rescue this civilian. Security is very tight in the last sector, so it should be approached with caution. Unfortunately we regret to say the civilian will attack you, if only because he won't know who you are.

Move your team up to location one. Here you'll find a skidu being guarded by a single soldier. However, he's also armed with a bazooka and he will use it to protect the enemy vehicle.

With the vehicle acquired, you should drive the skidu around the forest until you see the ramp at point two. Use this ramp and the vehicle's top speed to jump over the line of trees ahead. Keep the steering tight as the skidu will explode and kill your men inside if you hit any trees when you land.

At point three there's another bazooka guard. Be sure to waste him before attempting the second jump. If the second jump is a suc-



Unfortunately for us, the enemy's r main borracks resemble the local residents homes, so we can't afford to take chances. Every igloo must be demolished, providing they're in operation as we speak.

Secondly, in the hut to the east, several enemy captains are in a meeting discussing future war strikes against us and it is imperative that they are also eradicated.

Leave the drop-off point and head towards point one. This is the first operational igloo that you'll encounter. Destroy it at all costs.

Point two is hazardous and should not under any circumstances be breached. Kill any enemy on sight from a distance, but do not attempt to engage any closer.

enemy on sight from a distance, but do not attempt to engage any closer.

In this enclosure at point three there is another igloo. The two surrounding structures ore derelict and shouldn't need to be damaged further.

ore derelict and shouldn't need to be damaged further.

The action will certainly begin to get a bit heated now as you move in to the heart of their secret operation. As you make your progress through this area, be sure to demolish the building at point four before commencing on attock on the hut of point five. Make sure that everyone is killed in this area. We don't want anyone spreading word of our mission.

This leaves the two buildings to the north at point six and seven where all enemies should be eliminated. The same applies to the civilian building too. Even though they're not enemy army, they are dangerous to our groups and will attack with whotever means they possess, quite often a spear of some description that they use for fishing

they possess, quite often a spear of some description that they use for fishing.

If all is quiet up here, go down to point eight and there's a foxhole full of soldiers. Be sure to wipe the whole group out as they can and will send a message out for help. Oh, and one more thing: don't kill the seals – they're not doing any harm and any man caught doing so will be instantly court martialled and demoted.

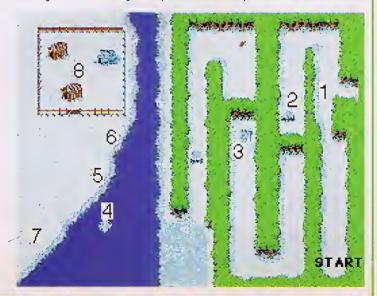
cess then proceed to kill the guard standing in the corner. Be quick or be dead.

The skidu is now no longer needed and should be discarded. Points four, five and six have guards posted who should be eliminated from a distance with the shells you have been issued. Attempt to cross the river without their extermination and you are surely going home in a bag. Be sure to kill the guard at point

seven before the final assoult.

The final assault should be quick and precise, the civilian is roaming around this endosure somewhere so toke great care with your quns.

Use the grenades to destroy the buildings as they won't break the surrounding fence down, allowing the enemy near you. Radio in when all objectives have been met.



VIDI ST (12)

This offers a breakthrough in Multimedia Video. Jammed full of features that are suitable for almost any imaging application. Offering Animation, Image Processing, Image Capture and file support for no less than 3 computer platforms. Image capture is so simple, both colour and mono images are captured in less than 1 second. Images can be displayed in almost any resolution and colour mode up to 740x480 in true colour.

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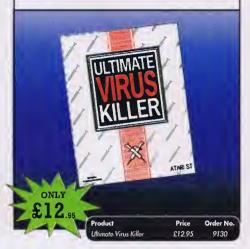
- Both colour and mono image capture
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TruePaint is the first art package to take advantage of the true colour capabilities of the Falcon030 computer. Some of the highlights of the products are:

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Videomaster can produce great 'grey' scale pictures from any video source with a pause or still frame facility. The colour filters provided in this package will enable the users of video cameras or camcorders to produce high quality still pictures in glorious

Videomaster features a sound sampler as part of the hardware, though the software can be used with external sound samplers. This is supported by a full feature sound

recording and editing program within the videomaster software. The Videomaster system also features a video sequencer.

The complete package contains the Videomaster video digitising and sound sampling hardware unit, TRI-Colour filters for colour camera use, comprehensive user guide and full system software.

Videomaster will work on any standard Atan ST with at least a single 1Mb floppy disk drive and a colour monitor. At least 1Mb RAM is recommended, RRP £69.95, save £15 with this offer,



STEREO MASTER

Stereo Master is a low cost, high quality sound sampler for the Atari ST. It includes many features such as:

- Realtime Playback
- Cut or Delete selected sample area
- Filter Sample with hard/soft
- Hi-Fi Stereo Playback option
- Built-in realtime special effects including Echo, Reverb, Ramp Pitch up/down and Multi Echo Chorus



REPLAY 16

At last, a low cost 16 bit sampling system for the Atani ST, featuring full 16 bit input and output in the same unit. The system comes complete with a sophisticated sample making/editing program, superb digital Drum machine program, and a powerful MIDI keyboard emulation program which gives the user the ultimate in MIDI sample control

HARDWARE - The 16 bit sampling unit plugs into the cartridge port of the ST. Audio connections to and from the sampler are provided via standard Phono connectors. An Input volume control is also provided.

SOFTWARE - EDITOR - The sample editor is a highly flexible "WIMP" style program which allows conversion or editing between any AVR format 8/12/16 bit, Mono or Stereo samples. Sampling rates of up to 48Khz can be used, but the program can resynthesise samples to practically any other speed.

Features include: Volume control Digital filtering and 3D frequency analysis Cross fade looping Record Play Fast Forward/Rewind with VCR style controls and much, much more,

> DRUMBEAT - A 4 voice polyphonic Drum machine with full MIDI control. Up to 30 different samples can be loaded into a kit at once and 50 patterns can be programmed in either realtime or steptime. Samples can be up to 1Mb in length each.

MIDIPLAY - Flexible keyboard emulator which can cope with up to 128 samples in memory at once. Any sample can be assigned to any note or range of notes in a 9 octave range. Midiplay can play up to 4 VOICE/NOTE polyphonic with 3 levels velocity sensitivity while in single voice mode. An advanced sample loop point editor with AUTOLOOP (Zero Crossing) detection is also incorporated to ease loop

The system runs on any ST or STE with 502K (1Mb min is recommended), and comes complete with hardware, software and compre-

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The NEW second generation Pro-Punter is written to professional standards and is attractive and easy to use. it features full editing and review of race data entered and also a unique low-maintenance database that does not need constant updating

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midi and music � emulation � comms � dtp � business �

e often look at building block disks but I've received a few letters over the past few months from readers asking why we don't feature rock and pop Midi files in the same way.

The answer is simple - there are so many out there that it would be impossible to cover them in any depth. Even listing new releases is impractical as they would fill several pages.

50 I've done the next best thing and compiled a list of Midi file suppliers. And what a lot there are. I thought I'd find six or perhaps seven but I've discovered over a dozen.

All companies will send you details of their files and most add to their catalogue every week, so if you want the latest rock and pop songs it pays to keep in touch.

Virtually all the files are configured to General Midi (the exceptions are noted in the text) and are, of course, available on 5T disks.

The only thing you might want to check is the file format. Many companies supply both format 0 and format 1. If your sequencer can demix by channel, format 0 is fine. If it can't and you want to edit the file, it isn't.

 Midi Magic (0792 644820) have over 250 files, created mainly by two programmers. Most of the catalogue is rock and pop with some medleys and special 10-pack collections.

One song is £6, five songs are



Part of Heavenly Music's arrangements of Mars from Holst's Planets Suite

With a song in his heart, Ian Waugh turns his attention to rock and pop files, the key suppliers and their musical catalogues

£25, 10 songs are £45 and medleys are £10, the 10-packs are £30. Postage costs £1.50.

 If you're looking for classic rock and pop songs, HMK (0292 317398) have over 100 titles, with new material being added every week.

Most are programmed by HMK (Heather M. Knox) herself. One song is £4.50, five songs are £20, 10 songs are £35 and 20 songs £60. Lyric sheets are available at £1 each. Add £1 p&p.

 5ound Image Productions (0501) 825109) will program any current chart song for the regular price, plus any custom song, providing it's not too obscure.

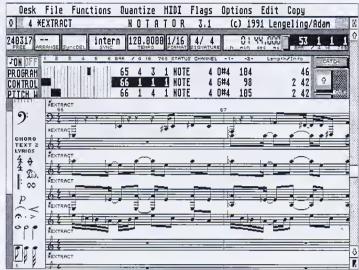
SONGS

They also have over 300 rock and pop files, over 30 medleys and collections consisting of four or five songs.

Most are programmed by 5cott A. MacAlister, and new files are added every week. 5ongs are £4.90 each, collections are £15 and a custom song will cost you £16. Add £1 p&p.

 The appropriately named Hands On (0705 783100) have over 2,000 files programmed by the Hands On team and the American Tran Tracks company.

Most are rock and pop files but there are some classical files too,



An excerpt from Hands On's Axel F

plus a selection of building block and utility files such as Roland G5 setup data, Groove beats and Rockbeats.

5ong files are £4.95 each plus p&p and the utilities are individually priced.

Hands On also have a bulletin board (0705 783400) containing free demos of all the songs. Downloading a file from the board costs £1 less.

● Files from Midi Music UK/U5A (0602 633117) are produced by members of The Associated Midi Programmers' Guild, and Midi Music pledges the quality of the files with a money-back guarantee.

There are over 600 files in the catalogue. They are mainly rock and pop files but there are some classical pieces too, and new titles are added every week. 5ome disks

are available from around 800 retailers and the company have a bulletin board (0602 641176), making the files instantly available to registered users.

Most songs cost £5 to £6 each but there are discounts for orders of five or more. Midi Music also have several Midi Albums containing around three songs for £9.95. Add £1.50 for p&p.

• 5ome files are specially tweaked to suit particular instruments. Labyrinth (0254 678915) have over 1,500 files programmed by the company's own team of programmers.

For example, the Korg MI files have been programmed to make the most of the MI's distinctive sounds, as have the Korg i2 and i3

Other formats include the

Which Midi file format's right for you?

There are two Midi file formats - 0 and 1. Format 0 files contain all the Midi data in one homogenous track.

This format is most often used with stand-alone Midi data players as the device has less work to do - it simply reads the stream of Midi data and plays it.

Format I files have each Midi channel on a separate track. This is most convenient for sequencer users who may want to edit the parts.

5ome Midi data players can read format I files, but not all. You can prepare a file in your sequencer for playing on a data player as long as your sequencer can save format 0 files.

If not, you need a format conversion utility of which there are two - Hands On's Zero Gen (£14.95) and Heavenly Music's Midi5cope (£12.95). Both do the job simply and without fuss.



Hands On's Zero Gen converts Standard Midi File format I files into format 0 files

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along with Midi

Roland 5ound Canvas and GM/G5 files. 5ongs are £5 each with a 20 per cent discount for orders of 10 or more. Postage is £1.50 per order.

 Bands and gigging musicians will be familiar with London Orchestra arrangements. Protracks (081 763 2225), run by Dave Tanner, are part of the London Orchestrations

5ongs are divided into two groups. Category I contains over 600 chart hits past and present.

THEMES

Category 2 contains over 50 rock and pop medleys, TV and film themes and big band standards. Five Category I songs or three Category 2 songs cost £30.

 Best known as one of the leading publishers and distributors of music books, Music 5ales (0284 702600) have recently released several books containing a disk of the music therein.

There are several categories to suit everyone, from beginner to professional, at prices ranging from £8.99 to £14.99 for about eight

The files are all in format 0, optimised for a Midi file player. The packs should be available from all TRACK: 1 165/0/Set original A 2 Flute original A 3 Oboe original A 4 Violin original R 6 HarpsRHP 7 HarpsLH 8 Balance 9 Rall, DROP HIKOD PUNCH RECORD (()) 14 Cellos **((()))**

Instrumentation for Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 as arranged by Oscar Music

good music stores.

 The Newtronic (081 691 1087) catalogue boasts over 3,000 Midi files, mainly programmed by German musicians.

Most are pop and rock but there are also some classical files and disks of drum patterns and techno grooves. One song costs £6.50, 10 songs are £59, 20 songs £99 and 100 songs £400.

 If you've read these pages before, you'll be familiar with Heavenly Music (0255 434217).

As well as the range of building block disks such as Dr. Beat, Ram Jam and Beat 'n' Bass, HM have over 750 songs in the Megga Tracks series.

The majority are programmed by HM's Joe Ortiz and most are pop

and rock but there are some classical disks and albums such as Tubular Bells and The Essential

5ongs are £4 each and the other disks vary in price from £10.95 to £19.95. £1.50 p&p.

 Words & Music (091-529 4788) specialise in classical music, with six disks of assorted classics typically containing 20 to 50 files per disk, a disk of Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, one of Ragtime tunes and a disk containing 160 drum patterns.

All disks cost £10.95 each plus £1 p&p, with discounts for orders of two or more.

 Classical music specialists, Oscar Music (071-377 6294) have recorded their files 'from the score'.

The current catalogue contains only three works - Mozart's 40th Symphony, Bach's 2nd Brandenburg and Beethoven's

Egmont Overture - but they are expertly programmed.

They are, however, arranged for Yamaha's 5Y77, not GM, and you need two SY77s to play the Egmont! The Mozart disk is £49.99, the others £24.99 each.

- The Proteus Communications (0642 300903) catalogue currently contains nine disks of classical music, again 'from the score', composers such as Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Rossini and Mozart. Disks are £12.95 each.
- No strangers to these pages, 5tation Records (0787 311500) specialise in guitar riff building block files. We've looked at these in this column over the previous year or so.

REALISTIC

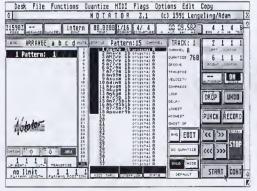
Electric Busker and Acoustic Busker contain guitar patterns recorded with a Midi guitar so they are extremely realistic. The Busker disks cost £14.95 each.

- Realfeel (071-241 0621) are a 'real music' specialist company with drum patterns recorded 'live' using Midi drum pads. The Realfeel disk is £13.95.
- One particular newcomer to the Midi file market have come up with a great idea - twiddly bits.

Keyfax 5oftware (0491 579645) supply a disk containing licks and riffs for guitar, drums, percussion, string, brass, bass, synth, piano, organ and woodwind. They have been culled from a team of professional players.

All you have to do is lift out the grooves and drop them into your own songs. It includes a full Arranger's Manual and costs £19.95 plus £2 p&p.

This is the first twiddly bits collection. Future releases promise to include orchestral twiddles, country twiddles and jazz twiddles.



Eighteen tracks of guitar riffs which you'll find on Station Records' Midi Busker Electric Guitar disk



The Midi Music Bulletin Board lets you download files 24 hours a day

Music update

- Steinberg have announced the implementation of a Cubase upgrade path. If you're thinking of trading in your ST for a Falcon, you can upgrade to one of the Falcon Cubase programs for a nominal fee. More from Harman Audio on 081-207 5050.
- Steinberg have also announced that the full range of Synthworks Editors are now available for the Falcon. The editors support a wide range of pop-

ular synthesisers including those from Yamaha, E-mu, Korg, Roland and Kawai.

If you already have a Synthworks program for the ST, you can get a Falcon version free.

Simply send your original disk marked for the attention of Robin Pearce to: Harman Audio, Unit 2, Borehamwood Industrial Park, Rowley lane, Borehamwood, Herts, WD6 5PZ.

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s this will be the final Emulation Aspects column, at least for the foreseeable future, it may be an appropriate time to take stock.

No other computer has ever been as versatile as the ST with its chameleon-like qualities, and I suspect that more people have been persuaded to buy an ST precisely for its abilities to run non-Atari software than is the case for any of its rivals.

From the very beginning, the emulation of other operating systems has been a key part of Atari's marketing strategy.

When the ST was first launched, there was so little software for it that Atari commissioned a CP/M emulator to be bundled with it, so people could run what was then the business-standard operating system and have access to such software classics as WordStar and dBase II.

In Germany, where the ST was a truly phenomenal success — which is why so many PD and shareware programs come up with cryptic messages like "Nicht genug Speicher" — you could buy thick volumes entitled WordStar on the Atari ST.

Then there was PC-ditto, a much-admired marvel of software engineering. It could run most MS-DOS programs at a third of the speed of a real PC, just about fast enough to take home your WordStar or Lotus 1-2-3 files from work and impress the boss with your dedication to get things done on time.

Really adventurous designer types would play around with the

Are emulators still cost-effective? Are they still necessary? Günter Minnerup assesses the state of the art



CP/M-Z80 Emulator Release 8.4 Serial number 101005 Copyright (85) SoftDesign Munich Version 6 for ATARI TOS Atari

Please change to CP/M-Z88 disk and press any key

Bundled with the original ST, now all but forgotten – the CP/M emulator

A milestone in PC emulation: PC-ditto. And it was all done in software only!

Be thyself

Magic Sac or Aladin (much more reliable) to run Apple Macintosh gems like Aldus PageMaker or Microsoft Word.

Things really took off when hardware DOS emulators featured real Intel chips and Spectre GCR sported the ability to read Mac disks.

The ST could now be something close to the universal personal computer: a PC-AT, Macintosh Plus and – if you insisted – CP/M machine all in one box, in addition to its increasingly impressive capabilities in native TOS mode.

Spectre GCR was so good that nobody ever attempted to compete with it, but on the PC front several rival products soon vied for the ST owner's custom.

PC/AT-Speed and ATonce were so similar to each other as to make little difference, but the maverick SuperCharger had a few special tricks up its sleeve, such as its own RAM (which could be used as a RAMdisk in Atari mode) and the potential to use real PC expansion cards.

AWAITED

Pity it never really made it in the UK because of the collapse of its distributors — it is, after all, the only hardware PC emulator to work with all Atari computers including the TT.

The long-awaited American counter-attack to German hegemony in the DOS emulation market flopped disastrously when PC-ditto II, the hardware successor to PC-ditto, didn't fit into ordinary 520/1040ST cases and turned out to be riddled with unpleasant bugs.

For the last few years, therefore, the choice has been pretty much narrowed down to PC/AT-Speed or ATonce for DOS and Spectre GCR for the Mac. The Falcon has

acquired its own DOS emulator in the shape of FalconSpeed which at last offers VGA colour screens, but otherwise there is no denying that the emulation scene has been marked by stagnation.

The sharp fall in PC and even Mac prices has made the economics of emulators less attractive: even if a brand new 386 or 486 clone or Mac Classic is still beyond your reach as a second machine, second-hand 286 ATs and Mac Pluses can now be picked up at little more than the cost of an emulator.

Software developments, too, have made emulation a less attractive proposition.

Running Windows on anything less than a 486 with a full-colour VGA screen is not much fun, and few STs have the amount of RAM and hard disk space required for Microsoft's memory-hungry user interface.

Add to that the cost of memory expansion and hard disk upgrade to that of the emulator and a trip down to your local Dixons for a cheap SVGA Windows clone appears ever more attractive.

Is the grass really greener?

Mac emulation could be more efficient in both cost and performance terms. Falcons and TTs in particular are quite capable of giving real Macs a good run for their money when fitted with the Spectre GCR emulator.

The trouble is that so far Spectre GCR does not like either the Falcon or the TT, and bids a hasty farewell when confronted with Apple's System 7

Recent news from Spectre's creator, Dave Small, has provided fresh hope that these difficulties may soon be resolved. Following a series of personal difficulties, he is now back working on Spectre version 3.1 which will finally crack the TT SCSI drive problem and run System 7, too. Further enhancements such as colour and Falcon support are in the pipeline for version 3.2, but that may well take a few months to reach our shores.

There is, of course, yet another angle to all this. The massive improvement in the quality of Atari software over recent years. For most applications, but especially in the fields of desktop publishing, graphics and word processing, there is so much first-class stuff running at full speed under TOS that it is no longer necessary to look at emulation as a necessity.

File formats are more compatible with the PC and Mac worlds, and the exchange of data via floppy or hard disks much easier. I for one have found that I use my emulators much less frequently these days and that is a positive note on which to close this column. The grass is so much greener on our own side.



The most powerful of the hardware PC emulators: ATonce 386. It's the only one to offer multi-tasking Windows, but sooo slow

Floppyshop Family Roots 2

Dept STU, PO Box 273, Aberdeen, AB9 8SJ

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able aid to those researching their family tree. It is the culmination of five years' accumulated work which has included extensive research into the subject. Unlike similar products, Family Roots is not merely a customised database. It allows the user to link each individual into the family tree graphically on the workscreen, whilst allowing easy access to its integrated database where the data on each individual is stored.

Our popular custom written mouse driven interface makes the program easy to use for the beginner, whilst giving access to more powerful features needed by experienced genealogists. Another unique feature of our software is that new individuals can be added to any part of the tree. Whilst this is being done (anywhere within the tree structure) existing data is cross linked to take into account the relationship to others in the tree. A powerful search function allows fast cross referencing between individuals.

Family Roots 2 costs only £29.95. Postage is included in the UK, please add £1.50 for Europe (including Eire) or £3 for the rest of the world. Existing users will be able to upgrade their copy to the new version by sending back their master disk along with the £10 upgrade fee. Postage for the upgrade is included in the UK, please add £1 for Europe (including Eire) or £2 for the rest of the world. Credit card orders welcome.

Art Has Never Been So 'EZ'!

Despite the apparent decline in the ST market, Floppyshop remain firmer than ever in their support for ST users and intend to prove that innovative software which pushes the machine to its limits, is not a thing of the past. EZ-Art Professional is the result of three years' research and coding done in close association with a graphic artist and a number of other professionals within the industry.

EZ-ART PROFESSIONAL came about as a result of a comprehensive study of the top graphics packages on the ST and Amiga. We have dispensed with the limited size of the low resolution screen and given the user, perhaps the most comprehensive, yet simple to use, editing tools available on an ST.

The program is icon driven and includes a built-in Help feature to guide the user as to the function of each and every icon. It supports the extended palette of the STE, loads all common ST graphic formats, including Spectrum 512, as well as IFF (including HAM). Features include over 20 block effects, over 20 types of pre-defined shapes, 18 different tools and modes, a built-in 16 colour fill editor, font support, up to 10 workscreens. What's more, it even runs on a 520!

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LIC37 Mr Dig

LIC70 Pacman St

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ALERT MATCH, HANOI.
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board game. D FISSION.

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AOV 27 FATEMASTER.

great Astronomy program

plus aSTronomer.
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Accessorise your any communications programs provide internal support for uploading and downloading files, but there are several that have taken the alternative route of allowing the

tive route of allowing the user to specify an external program to handle file transfer operations.

There are a number of such programs available, mostly in the shareware or public domain arenas. Until recently XYZ.TTP was the most common, but a German new-

comer, GSZRZ.ACC, just translated into English, is starting to prove a very attractive

alternative.

Software

TRANSFER

It supports the common X, Y and Zmodem transfer protocols, so it should be compatible with most online systems that you might wish to use.

The general design philosophy is much more orientated toward today's complex multitasking environments, and it can even run as a neatly windowed desk accessory rather than as a separate program, thus removing the need to re-load

XYZ.TTP v2.02 (Upload)

XYZ.TTP v2.02 (Download)

GSZRZ.ACC v4.5 (Upload)

GSZRZ.ACC v4.5 (Download)

CixComm File Auto Cixread Usenet Info

André Willey links up to a neat little German file transfer program

it each time it is required. This improves online session times considerably, especially when working from floppy disk. Of course, it can still be used as an ordinary program if desired

Another big plus is that it understands and supports all of the new serial ports found on more modern Atari machines such as the TT and the Falcon.

Speed-wise, GSZRZ.ACC seems to have a slight edge over XYZ.TTP, although there is not a lot in it. However, it does seem more resilient to line noise and is faster at re-syncing if an error does occur.

lts internal clock seems a little less precise than I would have liked. A one-minute transfer was dis-

1:05

1:06

I:03

Transfer time | Actual CPS

1098

1081

1133

1081

played on screen as having taken nearly two minutes!

The calculated CPS (characters per second) figures seemed accurate enough though, which tends to rule out interrupt problems which

can often affect such timing calculations.

Anyway, the bar-graph display, showing the proportion of the file transfer remaining, is a lot more useful for estimating the time to completion.

GSZRZ is now available with English documentation and UK support for a registration fee of £13 from Joe Connor's 'Supported Shareware' scheme on CIX.

The Shareware Solution

Shareware releases of software are becoming more and more common these days, with an ever-growing range of excellent programs coming from Germany and the USA. Unfortunately, shareware registrations to overseas authors are always a problem – have you got 50 Deutschmarks lying around the house?

Anyway, sending cash in the post is not exactly the safest of activities, so many people prefer to send a bank draft or cheque of some sort, which will cost you around £15 to arrange at the Post Office, or upwards of £10 via a bank.

Most people come to the conclusion that it's simply not worthwhile to pay a £10 shareware fee.

A number of CIX users felt the same way, and after discussing the problem for some time, the idea of arranging a UK bulk-registration facility for some of the best foreign shareware was proposed.

Long-time CIXen Joe Connor (jconnor@cix.compulink.co.uk) now handles a range of CIX-supported registrations, and can also assist with technical queries and setup problems, a big plus when the alternative is a phone call to Germany or the United States!

The currently supported programs include: Egale (a file comparison utility), Everest (a powerful text editor), Idealist (with IdeaForm and IdeaBook), Kandinsky (vector art), Selectric (a truly wonderful alternative file selector, which I now couldn't work without), GSZRZ (comms file transfer utility) and Two-In-One (an archive system which supports all popular formats).

GEMView, the image viewing utility, is also supported via CIX, by Graeme Rutt (sabbath@cix.compulink.co.uk).

If you don't yet have access to CIX or internet mail you can also send your UK registrations to Joe by 'snail mail' at 65 Mill Road, Colchester, CO4 5LJ, or to Graeme at 4 River Terrace, Washbank Road, Eynesbury, St Neots, Cambs, PEI9 2TE.

As with all shareware, the PD or unregistered versions are available for downloading from CIX, other bulletin boards, and PD libraries.

CinCown File Ruty Cigraed Magnet Info

CixComm v2.82 - Copyright ® André Willey 1994 Executing E:\COMMS.BIN\XYZ282B.TTP	The state of the s
/ XYZ Version 2.02 (MIC) Hay 10 1992 11 / * / Starfall Software Copyright ©1992 by Alan Hamilton * * Shareware, run with -h -p options for of the star	
ZMODEM file transfer	
Receiving file "uscratch", B1805 bytes File created on Thu Apr 14 23:24:47 1994 Bytes transferred CPS: now / avg Time left 36864 (45%) 1137 1119 80:80:40	
Q	\$

progress reports, caring little whether they fall within a window

Quoted CPS

1120

1095

1137

1093

Timings for Zmodem uploading and downloading a 71,349 byte file, using a V32

appears to be slightly faster than that of XYZ, possibly due to better streaming

modem with data compression disabled for the test. Download speed appears to be limited by the remote Zmodem software, but GSZRZ's upload speed

Part of CIX's 'supported shareware' file list. Once registered, you may receive more up-to-date copies of the software and documentation

0	CixCon	t v2.82 - Copyright & André Willey 1994
		CixComm v2.82 Reedy
CIX Supported	Sharmere	most include UK support & registration)
Some CIX user	s run & si	oport and registration schemes vie CIX. s currently supported:
Filenave	Size	Description .
gszrzs47.zip		Sharmware version of 6EM ZMODEM v4.7 (see #2259)
egale126.zip		file compare utility [German]
evrst32a.zip		Everest v3.2e taxt editor (See W398)
gbnch399.lzh ideal_4.lzh	175865	SEMBooch 3.99 bata, for registered users BMLY Idealist 3.4 with IdeaForm and IdeaBook
kandi57e.zin	223583	
sictiife.zip	77337	Selectric vi.16e alternative file selector
ZiniiB6e.zin	91737	
		Genview files, supported by sabbathEcix
pwGlest.app	47862	EDIView v3 installation program
EVALUE. FES	4358	
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V)		

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when you'll find:

- exclusive reviews of new ST and Falcon products
- a porn update what's the Government done during the last year?
- why a hard drive will benefit you
- a CoverDisk to help you get even more from your ST
- and a whole lot more

August's issue goes on sale from July 11

midi and music � emulation � comms � dtp � business � falcon

e've covered the topic of choosing a typeface for a given situation in previous issues, but the relationship between typeface, point size and leading is a complex one and newsletters often have peculiar requirements, so it's worth a second look.

The first requirement for the body text typeface is that it should be easy to read. To be easy to read a typeface has to be plain and simple, unlike display faces which can distract the reader. Serif faces are better than sans serif, simply because the serifs aid letter and word recognition, thereby speeding up reading.

MODIFIED

However, there are some modified sans serif typefaces such as Optima and Shannon which could be used if needed (modified sans serif faces are slightly thicker towards the ends of the stems and often look as though they are about to sprout baby serifs).

The best serif typefaces have moderate stress - which affects the Andrew Wright turns to the issue of body text and discovers a new way to put the colour into DTP

thickness of strokes - even width, and moderate x-height. Transitional typefaces like Caslon, Century Old Style and Times fall into this category.

Old Style faces like Garamond tend to have less stress, creating rather grey text although Garamond is undoubtedly still a good choice for legibility.

Modern typefaces like Century Schoolbook are worth considering though Bodoni has too much

stress and can get a little tiresome. If you're outputting to an inkjet or an older laser printer, it may pay to look at typefaces designed specially for low resolution work. These include Bitstream Charter and Nimrod, which are clearly legible even when printed on poorer printers.

The best way to proceed is to create a dummy based on approximately the same column widths that you will be using. Print it out in all your available typefaces and scrutinise the result. If you're not happy, it's a trip to the font shop for you!

Narrow the options down if you can and then make suitable alterations to the leading and point size. If you have a face like

Bookman with a large x-height, you'll have to use more leading than with say Times, although you can often get away with using it at a smaller point size.

In fact, if a typeface has too much or too little of anything stress, x-height, width or serifs - it will need more leading as a general rule of thumb.

If you find yourself preferring what seems to be excessive leading, don't worry. Timeworks, for example, generally adds a couple of points of leading by default but quite often a newsletter will look much better if it has three, four or even five points of leading. Whatever you do, don't be strait-jacketed by convention!

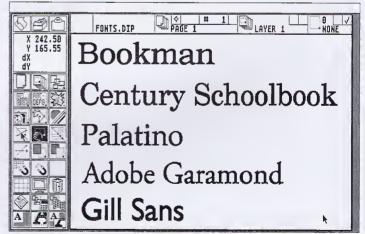
Clever way to colour

In the May issue I mentioned a way of using colour cheaply by preprinting paper with a colour other than black. In the meantime, another method, potentially even more cost effective, has come to light for those with laser printers.

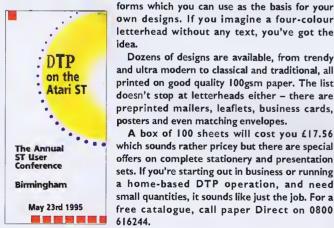
An American company called Paper Direct have launched a UK operation. Their 50-page catalogue lists all kinds of pre-printed paper and

own designs. If you imagine a four-colour letterhead without any text, you've got the Dozens of designs are available, from trendy and ultra modern to classical and traditional, all on the printed on good quality 100gsm paper. The list doesn't stop at letterheads either - there are preprinted mailers, leaflets, business cards,

posters and even matching envelopes. A box of 100 sheets will cost you £17.56 which sounds rather pricey but there are special offers on complete stationery and presentation sets. If you're starting out in business or running a home-based DTP operation, and need small quantities, it sounds like just the job. For a free catalogue, call paper Direct on 0800 616244.



The right body text typeface is a balance between x-height, leading and point size



There's a special offer available now from Monotype, one of the UK's premier font vendors (0737 765959). Monotype Fun Fonts 2 is a bargain bundle costing £29.36 including postage and

As usual it is aimed at Mac and PC users, with either TrueType or PostScript setups but if you're a PageStream, Didot or DA's Vector user, you'll be able to use the PostScript version without any trouble. Calamus owners can use programs like Fonty to convert to CFN format.

The pack itself contains eight display fonts including the newly designed Gills Sans Shadow, Brush Script, Coronet Bold, Binner Gothic, Rockwell Condensed, Mead Bold, Wittenberger Fraktur and a really weird effort called Crazy Paving. There are also 13 Dingbat and clip art fonts for various purposes and, best of all, four styles of the popular Nimrod typeface: regular, bold, italic and bold italic. This is an excellent, readable face suitable for use as body text. It also reproduces particularly well on 300dpi or lower resolution printers.



Brush Script one of 25 typefaces in the Fun Fonts 2 pack

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For the programmer, this provides endless possibilities. You can be running your program under development at the same time as editing the source code at the same time as re-compiling a later version. SMS2 is a wonderful environment to

SMS2 comes on a plug-in cartridge for the ROM port of all the ST range and supports the high-res mono mode. There is no complex setting up or installation. You just plug it in, switch on and 9 seconds later you have an SMS2 system

which is ready to network without any expensive hardware add-on's. The system comes in PEROM form on the cartridge so if you want to change the startup configuration at all then it is simple to do so. This also means that any enhancements to SMS2 can be provided on disc without the need to return the SMS2 cartridge.

It must be pointed out that SMS2 does not run GEM or TOS programs. It is a distinct and separate operating system which provides a powerful and yet flexible form of computing. There are already a number of commercial programs and a good range of PD software Telephone: +(0)489 894674 which is available now and is SMS2 compatible.

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midi and music � emulation � comms � dtp � business � falcon

Il of us in business can do with help in some area or another - advice on marketing, taxes, invoicing, or how about a little extra cash to help your fledgling company really get off the ground?

These things and more are available to many of us, and the really good news is that they don't need to cost the earth - some of them are even free.

50 this month I've come up with a list of 15 ways in which you and your company can be helped along with advice and financial help that won't break the bank.

The Enterprise Allowance Scheme: Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) or their equivalents were set up by the Government to oversee training for budding entrepreneurs in the community.

If you've been unemployed for six months and have access to £1,000, a start-up grant of £100 every fortnight for six months is available.

TECs can also provide training and on-going help for two years.

Information and advice from your local Enterprise Trust or Agency: These are veritable warehouses of advice and information about starting up and running small businesses and obtaining grants, but give no financial help themselves.

INDEPENDENT

They are independent bodies funded by local industry. Most areas have one and if there's one in your area, make sure you take advantage of its services.

 Free publications and video loans from the Department of Trade and Industry: Produced for the Managing in the '90s programme, this comprehensive list of titles includes business planning, new product introduction, marketing, production, buying and supply, and quality control.

All titles are listed in a free directory called The Route Ahead,

Something for nothing world.**

Richard Williams reveals fifteen free - or very cheap - ways of helping your business

and you can keep up to date with the programme with a free quarterly newsletter, '90s News. To obtain your copy, contact Mediascene Ltd on 0443 821877.

- Free information from the Inland Revenue on income tax and National Insurance matters, and from Customs and Excise on VAT. If it's of benefit to you, you may be able to register for VAT even if you haven't reached the £45,000 threshold for compulsory registration.
- Shareware demo version of Sales Controller: A professional quality invoicing and stock control system, available for £2 or less from many ST PD/shareware libraries.

Speeds up invoicing and stock control. Demo unfortunately has no save facility, but gives a good overview of the package. Good help system tells you everything about the program.

Registered version costs £30 from Andrew Brown at 2 Ullswater Drive, Wetherby, West Yorkshire L522 4YF.*

 Shareware demo version of Personal Database Plus, by Bay Computers, 3 Teasel Walk, Morecambe, Lancs LA3 3QQ

(0524 831162). Locate contacts quickly and easily with this one. £19.95 for full registered version.*

Demo of Invoice and Statement Generator, also from Bay Computers (see last item for address). If you want a simple system without the stock control, this could be the one for you.

INVEST

This demo version will tell you all you need to know about it before you invest. Telephone for registration deals of this one.*

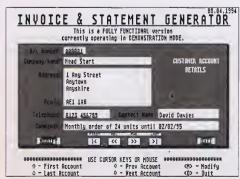
- The Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme: If you wish to take out a loan to start a business but have no form of security, you could qualify for this scheme under which the Government guarantees a large proportion of
- Regional Selective Assistance Grants from the Department of Trade and Industry can be used to buy equipment. You have to prove that product will safeguard or create jobs, and that, without the grant, it could not be bought.
- Regional Innovation Grants from the DTI are for small busi-

nesses introducing technology which is new to the company but not necessarily new to the

Regional Investment Grants, again from the DTI, are available only in certain priority areas of the country.

For a firm with fewer than 15 employees, this grant is for up to 15 per cent of the cost of equipment, up to a maximum of £15,000.**

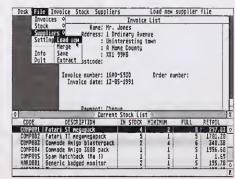
- Shareware version of On Schedule, by David Becker: A monthly calendar creator that will help you organise shifts and work schedules.*
- Shareware version of ZeST, again by David Becker, featuring an excellent graphical interface, and comprising calendar, address book database, typewriter and paint program.*
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ne of the most intriguing Falcon products at the recent enthusiasts' shows in Newcastle and Glasgow was to be found at the Best Electronics stand.

US developer Wizztronics had provided a mock-up of the new Barracuda board, a replacement I6MHz 68040 processor for the Falcon giving a performance boost of up to 500 per cent.

At least that is what is claimed -I haven't been able to test out the board, unfortunately, and there is, as yet, no UK distributor.

The Barracuda plugs into the computer's expansion port and requires only a little soldering, although the metal shielding will have to be modified slightly.

The basic I6MHz version costs \$650 although for another \$150 you can get a switchable 33MHz 68040 version.

In theory the upgrade should be highly compatible but I certainly wouldn't take anyone's word for it. Let's hope a distributor can be found soon.

Speed hungry users who want it yesterday can opt for a low price upgrade from specialists System Solutions that doubles the clock speed of the existing 68030 processor to 32MHz.

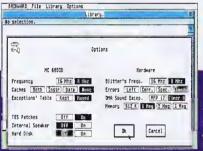
This £59.95 upgrade represents an excellent way to speed up CPU-intensive tasks such as raytracing, compiling and image processing, though the fact that the bus still works at 16MHz

Faster Falcon flies in North

John Hetherington discovers some intriguing accelerators to boost the Falcon's speed

means that not everything is twice as fast. The GEMBench utility shows a small increase in screenrelated operations of between 6 and 14 per cent, memory access up 25 per cent and pure CPU functions doubled.

Bearing in mind it is fitted and supported by the UK's foremost Atari experts, PowerUp looks very attractive indeed.



The latest version of Backward, the ST emulator, is on the FOG cover disk

Troubles clear for FOG

The Falcon Owners Group seem to be getting over some initial teething troubles and emerging as a useful group for the growing band of users who want to exchange ideas and swap software.

I was recently contacted by the chairman who assured me that all memberships would be honoured in due course - apparently the workload has far exceeded expectations.

FOG issue a regular printed newsletter in the form of an A5 hardbacked booklet with 56 pages on Falcon-specific troubleshooting, news and

Issue three of Falcon Update has just been released and it contains articles on screen resolutions for scanning, SpeedoGDOS, the Flash II comms package and direct-to-disk recording, among other topics of general interest and chit-chat.

The FOG also run their own PD library and each issue has its own cover disk, which is available separately. For more information contact Richard Davey at the Falcon Owners Group, PO Box 353, Stafford, ST17 9US.

Glorious technicolour

Back in the November issue I mentioned the fun business of changing the Falcon's desktop colours.

It occurred to me last month, when looking at XBoot, that as the colour information is saved directly into the CPX files WCOLOURS and COLORVDI, you can make a number of copies of these CPXs to reflect their colour value and load a different one every time you boot.

For example, my own CPX folder has three differently named copies of the Colour Setup module, each with slightly different colour palettes.

When booting, I can choose the module I want - and hence the screen colours - from the XBoot menu.

Note that different files are needed for each screen mode as the colours can go horribly wrong if you change from say 16 to 256 colour modes with the same Colour Setup CPX installed.

If you're thinking about having a go at customising your colours, here are a few tips for 16-colour mode. In the Colour Setup module there are 16 colours.

These can be related to the Window Colours module by mentally naming the top left colour 0 and the top right colour 3. Colour number 4 starts on the second row on the left and so on until you get to number 15 (bottom right corner).

The key colours to alter are numbered 8 to 15. After some experimentation, the following settings are advised:

8 - light grey for the metal floppy disk cover

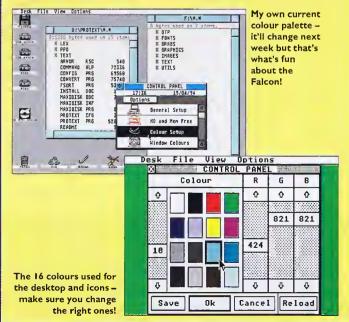
9 - medium grey for the wastebin

12 - very dark grey for the printer icons and drop shadows

13 - a very light colour for the drive icons. I like to see the drive letters!

14 - dark brown (used for some icons)

This leaves 10, 11 and 15. Changing them doesn't affect existing icons so it's best to keep 10 and 11 for the window colours (foreground and background) and 15 for the desktop wallpaper.



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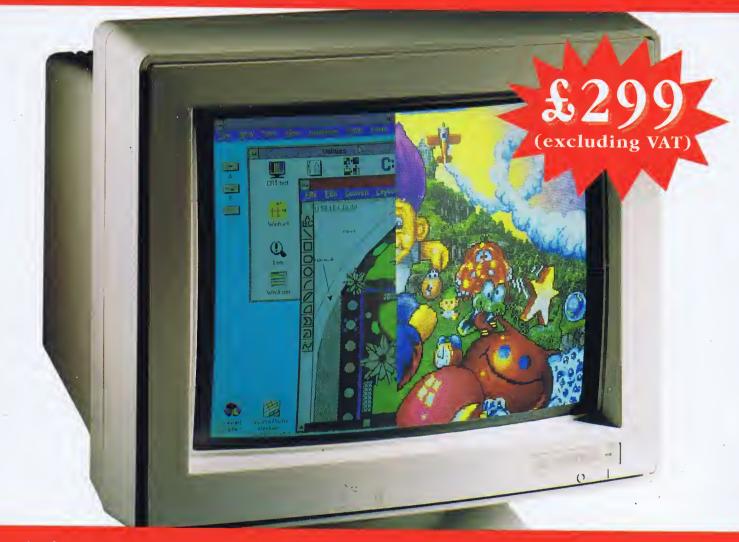
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